

SOCCER

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WHEN A SCOOP IS NOT A SCOOP

By Bert van Bedaf

When is an exclusive not an exclusive, a scoop not a scoop? When information is handed out to one media organisation ahead of another under a special arrangement and not obtained through any deft use of reporting skills, so it transpires.

This seems the position from A to Z in the case of Soccer Australia providing the Socceroos squad, assembled to play Brazil mid-November, "exclusively" to News Limited, ahead of the Fairfax Group, Australia's news network AAP, or any other news organisation in the country including Australian and British Soccer Weekly.

In a hectic week, which saw Soccer Australia deal with information selectively and then later apologise for it, media heckles were raised in anger and frustration.

First to raise the alarm was Sydney Morning Herald (Fairfax) soccer writer Michael Cockerill when he found himself "scooped" by the News Ltd papers.

"In what can only be described as a tawdry exercise motivated by financial desperation, Soccer Australia and its marketing partner IMG agreed that the squad would be released only to six News Limited newspapers," Cockerill wrote.

"The list of 27 players was to be used as a bargaining chip to get a partnership between News Limited and the new sponsor of the Socceroos (LG) across the line."

Cockerill pointed out that similar deals involving other sports never before included squad announcements. The naming of a national squad is not information to be bought and sold.

"In attempting to ingratiate themselves with just six newspapers, IMG and Soccer Australia have succeeded in alienating a much larger group of other media outlets," Cockerill concluded.

In Melbourne, the Herald Sun (News Ltd) writer Peter Desira was accorded the accolade "exclusive" for the squad piece, "Farina musters all-star Aussies" on October 19.

It listed the 27-member squad neatly in "alphabetical order", as AAP writer Paul Millar observed. It started with striker Paul Agostino and finished with Ned Zelic, a perfect A to Z of Australian soccer.

Michael Lynch, soccer writer of Melbourne's Age and Sunday Age, was upset by the deal. His editor thought Lynch had been "scooped", until Lynch explained the arrangement.

"Am I sore? Yet, you bet," Lynch wrote. "Why the vitriol? It's all because of a public relations decision taken (by Soccer Australia) to sell the Socceroos to a particular media outlet."

Continued on page 7

DOUBLE MISSION

STERREY'S FLASH VISIT TO MANCHESTER

By John Economos

The Newcastle Breakers' coach Lee Sterrey expects to fly out to England in the next 10 days to make a flash visit to European champions Manchester United on a very special 'double mission'.

Mission Number One will be to hunt down one, possibly two, very experienced players, one believed to be a mid-field playmaker.

Mission Number Two will be to establish a 'Big Brother' situation between the Breakers and Manchester United, or even with Elton John's Watford.

Late last week Sterrey had his original coaching contract with the Breakers extended by two more years.

This sudden action was taken by the Breakers' Board as a reflection of Sterrey's aggressive ability and performance since he arrived at the club last season.

Last night Sterrey told ABSW: "I can now plan far better for the future and instil some growth in our ranks. It's exciting for me as well as a real solid challenge."

"I honestly feel that many clubs in the NSL, fall on their own swords by signing up coaches on just one year terms. All this does is to create very limited stability," the Breakers' coach explained.

The Newcastle Breakers last season with Sterrey in command, finished eighth

on the League's ladder with 11 wins plus seven draws.

The Breakers ended last season with the third best defensive record in the National Soccer League.

Meanwhile expected to make the crusade to England with Sterrey will be the Breakers' new private owner and businessman, Mr David Hall.

Sterrey already has established links at United, in Staff coach and former United player, Jimmy Ryan.

Ryan in 1967 toured Australia as a player with the all mighty star studded Manchester United team that boasted living legends of the calibre of Georgie Best, Pat Crerand, Bobby Charlton, Denis Law, Brian Kidd and Alex Stepney.

Two years ago Sterrey first made personal contact with Jimmy Ryan in Italy.

In 1997 Ryan was United's Youth coach and Sterrey was Youth coach of Marconi.

Sterrey's Marconi Youth team had been invited to compete in Europe's most prestigious annual Youth competition, the Viareggio Tournament.

Marconi that year was drawn to play against Manchester United's Youth side which at the time was skippered by none other than 1998 England World Cup defender, Phil Neville.

Continued on Page 7



Lee Sterrey: Hoping to forge links with Manchester United.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER - CHINA v AUSTRALIA MATCH ONE

CHINA 3 (Wang Li Ping 35m, Xie Hui Lin 37m, Zhao Li Hong 77m) defeated AUSTRALIA 1 (Sunni Hughes 61m) in Zhuhai, China

The Matildas certainly made an impression in their 3-1 loss to world number two China last Thursday night in Zhuhai, their first match under a new coach, adjusting to a whole new system of play, and two players making their international debut.

Australia controlled the second half against the star Chinese outfit, their more technical new style of play starting to gel on the field in what was the first of a two-match series.

A crowd of 15,000 came to Zhuhai Stadium in the very humid conditions but sounded more like 50,000, the Matildas unable to hear themselves, and all their recent work on talking on the field of little use on this occasion.

US-based midfielder Danielle Small made her debut for Australia as part of the starting lineup. Sixteen-year-old Heather Garriock got an earlier call-up than expected from the bench for her first international, replacing Bridgette Starr who suffered a broken nose in a clash with Lui Ying in the 22nd minute.

The Matildas were tentative in the first half, finding themselves under enormous pressure as China displayed some of their sensational attacking World Cup form, a quick pair of goals giving them the break before half-time.

A lapse in concentration allowed China's Wang Li Ping to score in the 35th minute as the Aussie defence

appealed for offside. With the Matildas still reeling, the home side then broke away up the left and the penetrating cross was converted in clinical fashion by Xie Hui Lin.

A more confident Australia kept greater possession in the second half and reduced the deficit to one in the 61st minute. Small intercepted a Chinese pass at halfway and switched the ball to the left, allowing striker Sunni Hughes to run in and place a neat chip over the advancing keeper.

China were now the ones under pressure and forced into some uncharacteristic errors by their Australian opponents, the Matildas looking like they could create the equaliser. But against the run of play, China sealed the match with a third goal in the 77th minute, the Matildas failing to close down Zhao Li Hong who had time to place her 20 metre strike into the corner of goal.

The two debutantes made an instant impact, named as two of Australia's best, along with a sensational performance from defender Traci Bartlett. Cheryl Salisbury, in a new role at the back, also played well, plus Amy Wilson in midfield.

Australia: Wheeler, Starr (Garriock 22), Salisbury, Tann-Darby, Bartlett, Forman, Black (Wainwright 85), Small, Wilson, Boyd (Ferguson 78), Hughes (Golebiowski 68).

MATCH TWO

CHINA 4 (Liu Ying 15m, 58m, Zhang Ouying 41m, Qui Hai Yan 61m) defeated AUSTRALIA 2 (Sunni Hughes 7m, Cheryl Salisbury 80m) in Xiamen, China

The Matildas continued to hone their new style in positive fashion, the 4-2 loss in their second and final match against China last Saturday in Xiamen not a true indication of the Australians' performance.

The Matildas were a goal down at half-time, but had looked the better side by keeping their shape and applying the tactics worked on the previous day to make it difficult for the fast attacking Chinese to penetrate. Australia made a fantastic start, putting pressure on the World Cup runners-up to take the lead as early as the 7th minute before the Xiamen crowd of 15,000.

Sharon Black and Katrina Boyd combined to set up Sunni Hughes who placed the ball past the outcoming keeper.

The home side levelled in the 15th minute, a ball into the box touched on for Liu Ying to volley in. China claimed the lead late in the half, a perfectly placed ball behind the defence allowing Zhang Ouying to score.

Australia pressed for the equaliser early in the second term when, against the run of play, China gained a corner. The kick was headed down for Liu Ying to slot home from close range for a

scoreline of 3-1. Just three minutes later, China went further ahead, Qui Hai Yan's intended cross flying into the top far corner of goal.

The Matildas made four substitutions but still retained their shape and continued to attack for the remainder of time, and were rewarded with a goal in the 80th minute. A freekick was lobbed over the defence for Cheryl Salisbury to convert.

Best for Australia were defender Salisbury, midfielder Alison Forman, and Traci Bartlett at the back.

"The scoreline flattered the Chinese," said National Coach Chris Tanzey. "In several areas of the game, we were much closer. Overall, I'm happy with how we are keeping our shape, and it's only individual lapses and a bit of inexperience that made the difference on the day."

The AIS-based Matildas return to Canberra tomorrow afternoon.

Australia: Wheeler, Garriock (Wainwright 46), Salisbury, Tann-Darby (Hepperlin 67), Bartlett, Forman, Black, Small (Duus 68), Wilson, Boyd (Ferguson 65), Hughes (Golebiowski 65).

The XVI Sydney Soccer World Cup 1999

-16	Group 2	Malta 3	v	Lebanon 0 (Round 4)
+35	Group 3	Peru 3	v	South Africa 1
+35	Group 1	Argentina 6	v	New Zealand 0
AA	Group 4	Australia 3	v	China 1
Aa	Group 1	Chile 2	v	Macedonia 5

	Adelaide Force	Auckland Kingz	Brisbane	Canberra	Carlton	Gippsland	Marconi	Melbourne K	Newcastle	Northern Spirit	Parramatta	Perth Glory	Sth Melbourne	Sydney Olympic	Sydney United	Wollongong
Adelaide Force	X	9 13	20	15	0-0	32	19	34	18 26	30	2-1	22	7	28	24	11
Auckland Kingz	27 31	X	33	14	0-3	10	29	12	22	26	16	18	1-0	24	20	3-3 7
Brisbane Strikers	2-1	19	X	21	7	11 34	17	15	28	2-2 32	3-1	24	9	30	26	13
Canberra Cosmos	3-0	32	0-1	X	24 28	19	34	18	9	13	22	1-1	26	0-1 11	7	30
Carlton	23	15	25	6 10	X	1-1	21	2-1	13	17	8	27	30 32	19	11	34
Gippsland Falcons	14	28	16 29	33	20	X	12	31	1-0	9	18 24	0-1	22	7	1-1	26
Marconi Stallions	33	11	18	16	0-4	30	X	14	24	7 28	15	20 31	2-0	26	22	9
Melbourne Knights	16	30	0-1	17	22	13	32	X	7	11	20	0-3 26	24	9	1-0 33	28
Newcastle Breakers	8 17	1-1	10	27	31	23	6	25	X	21	29	12	16 33	15	14	2-2
Northern Spirit	12	8	14 22	31	18	27	25 10	10 29	0-2	X	33	16	20	0-1	15	24
Parramatta Power	21	34	23	2-3	26	6 17	1-1	2-1	11	19	X	7	28	13	9 30	32
Perth Glory	0-0	17	6	23	9	15	3-3 13	8 21	30	34	25	X	11	32	28	19
South Melbourne	25	21	27	8	12 14	3-0	23	6	19 34	2-0	29	10	X	17	31	15
Sydney Olympic	10	6	12	20 29	33	25	8	27	2-2	23	31	14	18	X	34	1-1 21
Sydney United	6	2-1	8	25	29	21	1-2	19 23	32	0-2	12 27	10	13	16	X	18
Wollongong Wolves	29	23 25	31	12	16	8	27	10	20	6	14	33	2-1	0-4 22	17	X

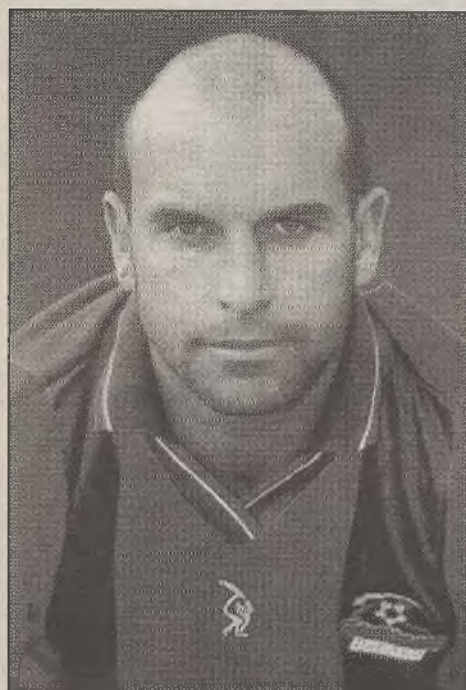
Numbers indicate which round the match will be played in. Home teams listed vertically.

THE BREAKERS TO FACE MARCONI

By John Economos

Newcastle Breakers this Friday night take on the vastly improved and galloping Marconi Stallions at the Breakers' Stadium in a 'Battle Royale' that should see stacks of sparks flying.

The Breakers' sterling striker Andy Harper, stated to ABSW last night: "We've now had two poor results against the Auckland Kingz (1-1 draw) and then last Saturday night against the Gippsland Falcons (1-0 away loss).



Andy Harper: Newcastle's highly experienced marksman.

"We urgently now need to bounce back on Friday night against the 'Rolls Royce' team of the League, Marconi.

"We must use Marconi as a platform to get up."

The articulate and studious Harper then added: "Marconi last Sunday night in Sydney was just magnificent.

"The way they played and handled the National League champions of the past two seasons South Melbourne, was superb to say the least.

"I believe Marconi is going to go places this season in the competition," ended Harper who will lead the Breakers' attack in tandem with mobile striker John Buonavoglia.

Meanwhile coach of the Breakers Lee Sterrey, firmly knows the ins and outs of Marconi, having spent no less than four years at 'the Palace', the first three as Youth team coach and the last, two seasons ago, in the elevated capacity as assistant to head coach Zoran Matic.

Sterrey last Sunday night was at the Marconi Stadium to cast an eagle eye over the Stallions as they raced to a 2-0 victory over the current League champions South Melbourne.

Last night Sterrey stated from Newcastle: "The 'Rolls Royce' team of the NSL is coming into town this Friday and they are looking the best that I've seen them for a long time.

"Marconi took care of South Melbourne last Sunday as if they were on fire.

"We (Newcastle) will just have to be at our very best form to take points off them.

"Of course we're going to be without Greg



Owens for the next three or four weeks, but I've already got something special planned for Friday.

"We've got to start getting triple points at home.

"Last Saturday night against the Falcons, in the second half we had 80% possession, but failed to capitalise on this.

"At this stage, other than Owens, we have no injuries.

"We are going to work on a couple of new things at training all this week and get it right for Friday," ended Sterrey.

A most interesting battle factor will be the clash between Marconi's anticipated twin strike force of Sean Babic and Kris



Todd McManus: Underrated central marker.

Trajanovski as they take on the Breakers' reliable defensive duo of Shane Pryce and the vastly improved Todd McManus.

McManus — the Breakers' hugely underrated marker — has hit scintillating form this season which saw him have an outstanding match two weeks ago against the visiting Auckland Kingz.

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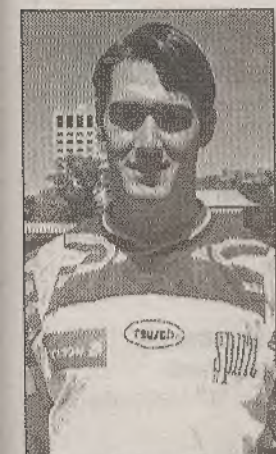
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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

Clayton Zane who last Friday week made the journey up to Newcastle to watch his former club lock horns with the Auckland Kingz, stated to 'Good Oil': "I hope some day I'm able to return to Newcastle and with the experience I gather by playing in Europe be able to inject it into the team."

"I liked what I saw in what Andy Harper today is able to give to the young Breakers today with all his experience," stated Zane.



Clayton Zane: Wants to return one day to the Breakers.

The lanky Northern Spirit and Olympic team striker will fly out of Sydney next week to take up his new European career with Norwegian side Molde F.K.

Scotty Baillie, Sydney Olympic's sturdy central defender, last Saturday week was involved in a five car pile up on Sydney's outer west and busy Cumberland Highway.

In non stop lashing rain, cars propped and skidded into one another with Scotty's now battered Commodore ending up with



Scott Baillie: Olympic's sturdy stopper.

more hits than Elvis Presley. With rain still heavily pelting down and just as all the five wrecked vehicles were being towed away, another pile up occurred just 100 metres away from the first scene.

Although not injured but badly shaken up, Baillie played the next day in Olympic's match against Wollongong Wolves.

The Newcastle Breakers last Saturday for their away match against the Gippsland Falcons that evening, planned their long journey rather well.

Instead of flying to Melbourne via Sydney, then laboriously busing it out to the Latrobe Valley, chartered an Impulse Airlines flight early in the afternoon from Williamstown and flew direct to Morwell.

This way Lee Sterrey's squad was able to arrive with heaps of time to devour their pre match meal then relax well before the kick off time set down for 7pm.

Immediately after the match, the Breakers squad

flew out of the Latrobe Valley at 9.30pm and were back at Williamstown by 11.30pm and straight to bed.

What you'd call a 'hit and run mission'.

Amongst their luggage last Saturday night the Breakers returned to Newcastle with no League points having lost 1-0 to Jeff Hopkins' Gippsland Falcons.



Shane Pryce: The Breakers' skipper and free-back.

Paul Trimboli, Souths' captain and mercurial striker, plus arguably Australia's best player in the NSL over the past decade together with former Adelaide City's marvellous Sergio Melta, had a far from happy day last Sunday week.

Playing his 350th match in the National League against the Gippsland Falcons, 'Trimmers' sustained a groin injury in the first session that forced him to leave the pitch 21 minutes into the second half.



Paul Trimboli: Souths' mercurial captain.

The terrific Trimboli is only the eighth player to have topped 350 matches in the National League. The other seven 'Triple Centurions' to have crossed the 350 mark are:

Sergio Melta (445-Adcity), Alex Tobin (409-Adcity), Mike O'Shea (406-St George-Wollongong Wolves), Theo Selemidis (393-Melbourne Knights), Gary Phillips (377-Sydney Olympic-Brisbane Strikers),

By John Economos

Danny Wright (353 South Melbourne-Brisbane Strikers), Graham Jennings (351 Sydney Olympic/Sydney United/Brisbane Strikers).

All eight are/were not only high quality players, but far more importantly, high quality people.

Bernd Stange, the Perth Glory's German coach, after having watched his side struggle to a scoreless draw last Sunday week against Zoran Matic's tight Adelaide City, stated: "A draw at home is never enough in Soccer. The way in which we played was okay, but the result wasn't good enough for us."



Bernd Stange: Perth Glory's quality coach.

"We lacked a little bit of risk, especially from our strikers. We should have played with a little more risk."

game against Marconi Stallions at 5pm instead of the normal time of 6.30pm at Belmore Sports Ground.

South Melbourne in partnership with Consolidated Travel has just announced special package deals have been put together for Soccer fans desiring to travel next January with the Australian and Oceania Champions to Brazil for FIFA's inaugural Club World Championship.

South Melbourne will be staying at the same Hotel, Le Meridien Copacabana in Rio de Janeiro, as the mighty Manchester United, thus accommodation will be strictly limited.

The games will be played at the historically world famous Maracana Stadium.

Airfares Melb/Rio/Melb on Qantas cost \$5,999 plus taxes (Business Class), \$2,300 plus taxes (Economy class).

All airfares include tickets to the following matches:

Manchester United vs Necaxa.

Vasco da Gama vs South Melbourne.

Manchester United vs Vasco da Gama.

South Melbourne vs Necaxa.

Manchester United vs South Melbourne.

Necaxa vs Vasco da Gama.

Final 3rd vs 4th play off.

World Club Championship Final.

Accommodation costings at Le Meridien Copacabana are;

\$115 per night/ per person twin share, and \$215 per night/per person single rate.

Intending travelling supporters to Brazil should urgently contact South Melbourne's General manager Damien Phillips on (03) 9645 9797, Fax (03) 9645 9796.

Angelo Costanzo, Adelaide City's excellent 23 year old star, has stepped into the most sacred shoes of the recently retired sweeper, Milan Ivanovic.

Costanzo a natural and mobile defender anywhere across the backline, has been entrusted with the lateral defender's role by his coach Zoran Matic, a position that Ivanovic incredibly held for 10 years AFTER he had retired from the Yugoslav first division to immigrate to Adelaide.

Top Secret For Readers of 'Good Oil'.

A high ranking official of Australian Soccer this

week will knock up his 'half century' (age that is) and has gone to great lengths to keep this undeniable fact very quiet.

However unbeknown to him, his most faithful wife, an ardent lover of Agatha Christie novels, has 'mysteriously' planned a surprise birthday party for him and has invited EVERYBODY that knows her husband in Soccer.

'Good Oil' can tell readers that the 'secret party' is this Saturday night and will be held down at Sydney's picturesque Darling Harbour.

It's going to be bigger than Ben Hur. Be there.

Dynamic striker John Aloisi and lanky marker Tony Popovic, late last week withdrew from Frank Farina's Australian squad to clash with Brazil later this month.

Both internationals



John Aloisi: Out of Australian squad due to injury.

reluctantly pulled out of the Australian squad due to injuries.

It's more likely than not that Farina will not be forced to draft in another two players as already he has cut back his named squad of 27 down to 18.

Darren Stewart former Newcastle and Apia-Leichhardt attacking centre back who for the past seven seasons has been playing in Malaysia



Angelo Costanzo: The 'Black and Whites' new sweeper.

then Singapore, is about to strongly challenge for Asian honours.

Darren has made it to the final two to be soon named as Singapore's 'Player Of The Year'.

The Novocastrian's opponent is Zolt Bucs, an excellent Hungarian international pressing Stewart for the coveted trophy.



Darren Stewart: Could be named 'Singapore's Player Of The Year'.

Australia's two home matches against the coming touring Brazilian Olympic team, could see Frank Farina's players possibly wearing an All Blue strip so as to not clash with Brazil's national Gold and Blue.

Why for God's sake must Australia wear Blue?

Blue has got absolutely nothing to do with Australia's traditional and proud national colours.

If there is going to be a clash of colours, then why shouldn't Australia play in an all-Green strip with some large, most prominent Gold markings in numbers on the shirts and shorts?

Why does Australian Soccer always allow NON SOCCER people to barge in on our code, take over and tell us what to do, especially as to what our teams must wear.

These people are NOT to blame.

Our very own Soccer hierarchy is, as always,



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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...



Consider an Australian request, should we ever tour Brazil, asking the CBF (Confederation of Brazilian Football) for them to change their national strip colours to play against us.

The CBF would automatically cancel such a tour.

Wake up Australia.

Australian sportsmen and women have for years died on international arenas for the 'Green and Gold'.

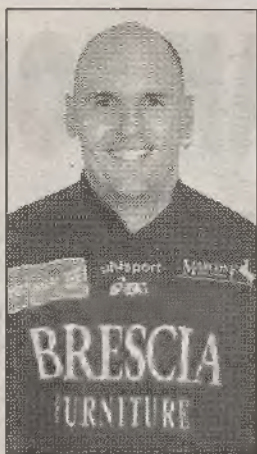
It's a bloody disgrace.

Sydney United late last week acquired the services of Marconi's experienced goalkeeper Brett Hughes and was rushed into United's first team last Sunday that played the Melbourne Knights in Melbourne.

The 30 year old Hughes first donned his gloves in the NSL with Eddie Thomson's Sydney City in 1986 as a 16 year old before transferring to Apia Leichhardt a year later.

The hairless Hughes went on to play six seasons with Wollongong Wolves under United's current coach David Ratcliffe.

"Sydney United is moulding into a very



Brett Hughes: Released by Marconi to United.

competitive outfit and I look forward to being a part of that," stated Hughes.

Marconi's coach Eddie Krncevic last Friday afternoon signed up an exciting Fijian teenager that possesses heaps of promise.

Already nicknamed by the Marconi squad as 'Junior', the 18 year old attacking midfielder already is a current member of the Fijian Olympic squad.

Paul Williams, SBS' ace commentator resigned late last week from the Super Soccer Channel for

close family reasons.

The excellent former English lad will still make appearances for SBS' Sunday morning programme, 'On The Ball', but is no longer able to file stories.

We wish Paul all the very best in his new role as a 'freelancer'.

Speaking of SBS, Thursday night at 10pm the Super Soccer Channel will exclusively screen on free to air TV the full match replay of the European Champions' League match between Bayern Munich and Glasgow Rangers with the winner progressing to stage two.



Paul Williams: No longer with SBS as a commentator.

By John Economos

Most importantly and especially for Australian viewers is the fact that the Rangers will have two Australian World Cup



players on the pitch, defenders Tony Vidmar and Craig Moore.

Moore has been at Rangers the past six years whilst Vidmar linked up with the Blues last season from Holland.

SBS will screen every match week a Champions League game on a Thursday night at 10pm.

A magazine highlights programme from this tournament will also be screened every Saturday at 3.30pm

Harry here we go yet again. Harry Kewell, Leeds

United's dynamic Australian attacking left midfielder, late last week once again announced his unavailability to play for Australia in 12 days time against Brazil in Sydney and then Melbourne.

Kewell over the past three years has rarely played for Australia, with always something 'coming up' that has prevented him in doing so.

However this time round it looked almost suspiciously probable that Kewell would surface for Australia for two very significant reasons.

Last month Kewell headed the television commercials that first appeared on our screens on behalf of I.M.G. who are the direct promoters of the two matches against Brazil.

Secondly, I.M.G. manage Kewell.

Therefore one could very easily be led to believe that this time round Kewell would lob at the crease.

Just a few weeks ago Kewell stated to Australia's new coach Frank Farina that he

would definitely play against Brazil and was looking forward to it.

A few months ago when Australia's 2000 Olympics coach Raul Blanco set up a special training camp near London and drafted all the Euro based players for two



Harry Kewell: Again unavailable for Australia.

friendly matches, all turned up, but yes, not Kewell. Not even a telephone call from Elland Road to Watford as to why.

It's like Days Of Our Lives.

Now we are told Kewell 'wants to come' but the Leeds' gaffer David O'Leary this time is the

culprit who is blocking the 22 year old Australian's path.

O'Leary is said to have ordered Kewell to rest.

Like it or lump it Msrs Blanco and Farina, enough is enough.

'Good Oil' very seriously questions Kewell's real desire in wanting to play for Australia.

South Melbourne's Treasurer is a far happier man than Canberra's Peter Costello these past few days.

FIFA has informed Angie Postecoglou's Australian and Oceania Champions that their Club will be guaranteed the astronomical cash reward of some \$3.83 million for making the final eight in FIFA's inaugural World Club Championship next January in Brazil.



Angie Postecoglou

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THREATENED SKIPPER WANTS HIS FORM TO SPEAK FOR HIM

By Allan Crisp

Alex Tobin's record reign as Soccerroo captain is under threat. But the big defender is not about to relinquish his leadership role, nor surrender his place in the national squad without offering stubborn resistance.

Tobin is the surprise omission from the Soccer squad to take on Brazil.

According to his critics, Tobin, who turns 34 tomorrow (Wednesday), has passed his use-by date and should be assigned to the international footballers' scrap heap.

Former Soccerroo striker Robbie Slater set the rumour ball rolling when in his book "The Hard Way" the flame-haired Bulldog claimed that his long standing mate, Graham Arnold, would have been a better leader than Tobin during Australia's last World Cup campaign.

New broom Soccerroo coach Frank Farina partially endorsed Slater's opinion by making a public declaration that he could not guarantee the 87-times capped Adelaide Force player an automatic berth in his first World Cup squad.

Farina must be admired for his honest approach in coming to Adelaide to spell out his intentions to Tobin.

The meeting provided a double-edged "clash" with Tobin explaining that he had no intention of quitting the national squad while spelling out that he wished to be judged, not on his age but on his form, current at the time the Soccerroo group is chosen.

Classic defender Tobin had effectively blocked the on-rushing striker Farina as he made a typical rush into the penalty area with the ball firmly controlled by his skilful feet.

But former Birkalla junior, Tobin, renowned as the stopper who has quelled some of the world's best striking predators, had made yet another timely tackle.

This, though, was a contest with a distinct imbalance because Farina also is the "referee" - the man with the final say, possessing the power to blow the final whistle on Tobin's outstanding international career.

However, when retiring or phasing out a champion, the new supremo would do well to avoid the possibility of acting in haste and repenting at leisure.

Australia's player stocks currently are rich and plentiful, but before discarding a champion, be certain that you are not going to need his experience when the going gets tough in the trenches.

WHAT FARINA AND TOBIN HAD TO SAY

Farina: "Alex honestly wants to continue playing. He said he doesn't want to be judged because of his age, or because he is captain."

"I gave him no guarantees that he would be in the (World Cup) squad, or in the team and he's quite happy with that."

"He still wants to play because he believes that he still has something to offer. It comes down to, at the end of the day, my opinion."

Tobin: "I've spoken at length to him about the situation and I made it clear to him that I'm geared towards the World Cup in 2002."

"If that's as captain, then that's fantastic - if it's not as captain, then that's OK too."

"Basically, it's Frank Farina's decision, not



Alex Tobin: Will fight to the death.

mine, but retirement is something that I'm not considering and it's something that he's not suggested. I'm sure that Frank would be honest enough to tell me now, if I'm not in his plans at all for 2002.

"If he told me that, then I would retire. I watched the last World Cup with interest to note how many 36-year olds were competing and a precedence has been set in that regard."

"What I would not like to do is to eliminate myself from the running and then when qualification time comes around and Australia makes it to the World Cup be hit by the realisation that I'd retired a couple of seasons too early."

"Basically, I don't want the disappointment of retiring and then saying, hell, I could have been part of the World Cup finals."



OTHER FORCE NEWS

Adelaide Force last week announced the signing of Italian striker Claudio Pelosi for the remainder of the season.

Pelosi is a former Italian division one player with Cremonese and Empoli, but his last club was Pistoiese in Serie C.

The 32 year old, 178cm tall striker hopes to be cleared in time for this Sunday's away match against Sydney United.

Force has also announced that Bradley Hassell has signed for three more seasons.

Coach Zoran Matic believes both Pelosi and Hassell will play crucial roles in the team's fortunes this season.

"Claudio has played at the top level in Europe, and we believe his experience there will make him one of the top players in the NSL," Matic said. "Bradley Hassell has developed as a key player, and his hard work has been recog-

PRE WORLD CUP TOUR

The Australian Under-17 Soccer team has fought out a 1-1 draw with Universidad de Chile, in the second game of the Chilean leg of the current South American tour.

Missing two key players, LOUIS BRAIN and DYLAN MACALLISTER through injury, still without SHANE CANDELL SHERRIFF and BRADLEY GROVES who join the team for the Argentine leg, and without the Italian based ADRIAN MADESCCHI who rejoins the LG Joys for the two games Vs Argentina, the Australians put up a valiant show against their more experienced opponents.

Universidad, who currently leads the local competition in Chile, fielded just two Under-17 players for this game, the side made up of five first-team players including the goalkeeper.

Despite their many attempts, the LG Joys were unable to crack the Universidad defence in the first half. SCOTT McDONALD'S header tipped over the bar in the 11th minute, a LUCAS PANTELIS free kick heading into the top corner only to be parried in the 20th minute, and WAYNE SRHOJ seeing his header well saved in the 30th.

The Australians went down 1-nil in the 34th minute, but their continued hard work in the second half eventually paid off seven minutes from full time, McDonald finally getting past the Universidad goalkeeper to earn the LG Joys a 1-1 draw.

"This game was all about the players coming of age," said coach Les Scheinflug after the game. "Their opposition was far more senior and well seasoned than any other we've encountered so far on this tour, and while the boys found it tough, they were well organized, handled themselves well and I was pleased with the effort."

LG Joys 1 (Scott McDonald 83) Universidad de Chile 1

Australian line-up

Van Strattan (gk); Lockhart, Byrnes, Goulding, North, Pantelis, Johnson, Srhoj, Doumanis, Di Iorio (Kennedy 58), McDonald.

MATCH SIX

The Joys have suffered its first loss of the Chilean leg on the current South American tour, going down to Universidad Catolica 2-1 in Santiago last week.

The LG Joys were up against a mixture of first team, reserve and U-20 players from one of Chile's strongest clubs, and were given one of their toughest workouts so far on tour.

The LG Joys went down a goal in the 29th minute after a shot from 30 metres caught out everyone, including keeper Jess Van Strattan off guard.

Australia continued to try and find a way through in the second half, with the persistence finally paying off in the 78th minute, JOSEUA KENNEDY whipping over a cross from the right to find LUCAS PANTELIS, whose volley levelled the game at 1-1.

Those celebrations were short lived however when just a minute later, a rocket of a shot from 40 metres rattled into the top corner, to give Catolica a 2-1 lead, and eventually the game.

LG Joys 1 (Lucas Pantelis 78) Universidad Catolica 2

Australian line-up

Van Strattan (gk); Lockhart, Byrnes, Goulding, North, Pantelis, Johnson, Srhoj (Kennedy 56), Doumanis, McDonald, Di Iorio.

nised. We see him as part of our long term plans."

Pelosi came to the club through European agent Michele Pirro, who has also been responsible for bringing a number of sponsors to the club.

Uviteto Mineral Water, Andreas sporting and casual shoe, and Paluani confectionery are joining Force as sponsors in deals worth a combined \$100,000.

For last Friday's game against Carlton, every fan received a complimentary packet of Barilla pasta thanks to their major sponsor Barilla, and Barilla's South Australian distributor D'oro Distributors.

NOT REALLY A SCOOP

Continued from page one

"That decision has made it clear that while the game's governing body complains hard enough that it isn't given the space to play on a level media field, it's quite happy to shift the goalpost for reasons of short-term expediency without, it appears, considering the implications.

"You might have noticed a few papers splashing exclusive tags on stories naming the Socceroos squad for the Brazil matches. They were exclusive all right — only to papers in the News Ltd stable following a financial and marketing arrangement between SoccerOz and Rupert's (Murdoch, owner of News Ltd) local organ.

"For a few dollars, Soccer Oz and its promotional partner in the Brazil series IMG disenfranchised more than half the public.

"It might have bought itself some favour with one media group, but in the process alienated a much greater number of print, radio, TV and Internet sources," Lynch observed.

Soccer Australia and IMG went into damage control. SA chairman Basil Scarcella contacted media outlets. "He told me, it won't happen again," Millar said.

"I think they've learned from their error," Lynch said. But another reporter made the comment: "Soccer Australia has apologised, but the trust is gone."

SA's media relations still has a rocky road ahead.

DOUBLE MISSION

Continued from page one

In fact in that match, Sterrey's Marconi Youth team was actually leading Manchester United's Youth side by 1-0 and with just two minutes to go before United scrambled to score a desperate and face saving equaliser.

Since that 'battle' in Italy, Sterrey and Ryan have become good friends.

"I'll be looking out for a couple of good players and I expect Jimmy (Ryan) will help

me out," stated Sterrey last night.

"Whilst we are over there, (with Mr David Hall), we will be seeking some form of link up with either United or Watford.

"David (Hall) already knows Elton John very well.

"In years gone by when David was promoting concerts, he was involved in bringing out to Australia Elton John.

"So that is the Watford connection for us," ended Sterrey.

Australia's final squad for Brazil matches

Goalkeepers

Mark Bosnich (Manchester United, Eng); Zeljko Kalac (Roda JC, Hol)

Defenders

Steve Laybutt (Bellmare Hiratsuka, Jap); Stan Lazaridis (Birmingham City, Eng); Craig Moore & Tony Vidmar (Rangers, Sco); Kevin Muscat (Wolves, Eng); Paul Okon (Fiorentina, Ita)

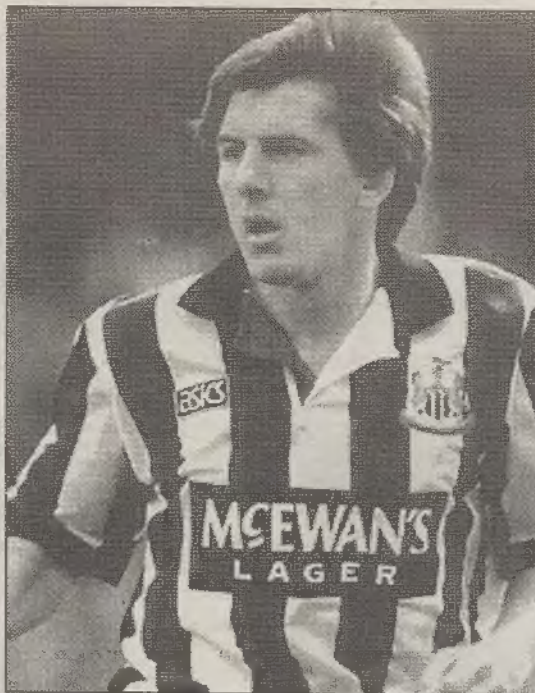
Midfielders

Steve Corica (Wolves, Eng), Brett Emerton (Sydney Olympic), Josip Skoko (Hajduk Split, Cro); Richard Johnson (Watford, Eng); Danny Tiatto (Manchester City, Eng); Ned Zelic (1860 Munich, Ger)

Strikers

Paul Agostino (TSV 1860 Munich, Ger); Mark Viduka (Celtic, Sco); Damian Mori (Adelaide Force)

BEARDSLEY FOR THE KNIGHTS



Peter Beardsley: Being courted by the Melbourne Knights.

THE Melbourne Knights are about to sign former England international Peter Beardsley for a three-match guest stint, Knights director Miro Mitkrut said.

The club has set aside \$200,000 to sign several big-name overseas players for guest appearances during the season.

Others on the list are Lothar Matthaus, Jurgen Klinsmann, Slaven Bilic and Jean-Pierre Papin.

"We'll bring out at least another three international players, who have played in England and or at World Cup level," Mitkrut said.

"It is part of our overall plan to broaden our support and offer soccer fans great entertainment at our matches," he said.

— By Bert van Bedaf

CLARIFICATION

ABSW's Good Oil column last week incorrectly identified "Adamstown Social Club" as the location of an incident involving a security guard and Auckland Kingz defender Levant Osman.

The incident actually occurred at Austral Soccer Club which adjoins the Newcastle Breakers Stadium in Birmingham Gardens and is 8km west from the Adamstown Rosebud Sports and Recreation Club. The incident — in which Osman was refused entry into the club because of a perception he was underage — occurred after the 1-1 draw between Auckland Kingz and Newcastle Breakers.

Adamstown Rosebud, formed in 1889, is one of the oldest soccer clubs in Australia and now plays in the Northern NSW First Division.

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MELBOURNE TO KICK-OFF SYDNEY GAMES

THE 2000 Olympics may be held in Sydney, but they'll start in Melbourne, two days before the official Games ceremony at Stadium Australia.

Soccer will kick-off one the greatest sporting spectacles on earth. The Socceroos will open the tournament at the MCG on September 13. Quarter and semi-finals will also be held at the MCG.

The Matildas will open the women's tournament in Canberra on the same night, while the present World Cup and Olympic women's title holder USA will play three matches at the MCG in double headers on September 14, 17 and 20.

NSL Carlton midfielder and Olyroo, Simon Colosimo commented, "To get a chance to play at the MCG as part of the national team at the Olympics is a dream of every Australian player. It's giving me goose bumps already."

Someone who knows the feeling of running out on the 'G is Victoria's new sport minister Justin Madden, an AFL champion with top clubs Essendon and Carlton.

"Any player, whether from the AFL, rugby or football, will tell you what a great feeling it is to run out on the MCG in front of a 90,000 crowd of screaming fans. The atmosphere is simply unbeatable," Madden said.

South Melbourne's NSL goal sneak Michael Curcija aims to be one of the lucky players to run out on the hallowed turf, scene of the 1956 Olympics.

"A lot of the quality players play overseas. I'm playing at home this season and hopefully I can bag a few goals and force my way into the team," he said.



Ned Zelic: Being interviewed after the FIFA World Stars game in June.

Picture by Stuart Jones.

Ticketing will be handled with more care than what has transpired in Sydney in the last few weeks. "We clearly need to resolve the current issues to the satisfaction of the Australian public. We'll be forthright in how the ticketing announcement will move forward," SOCOG general manager, sport, Bob Elphinstone said.

Madden emphasised the objective of making the Olympics affordable to Melbourneans.

"Victorians will have the chance of seeing five double header matches as well as men's finals. Tickets will range from \$19 to \$85 per person,

which brings the Olympic games within reach of just about everyone," he said.

THE Socceroos playing Brazil in November won't be captained by Adelaide Force skipper Alex Tobin. Socceroos coach Frank Farina has dropped Tobin, a stalwart defender for Australia in 87 matches, from the team. "It doesn't end his international career. It's just that at this stage I have a squad I hope will perform well for us," Farina said.

Mark Bosnich, Paul Okon and Ned Zelic are among the captaincy

contenders. The only local players in the squad of 18 are midfielder Brett Emerton, of Sydney Olympic, and striker Damian Mori, of Adelaide Force.

NATIONAL Soccer League clubs have been warned. Don't bother inflating crowd figures to boost your chances of staying in the reduced 12-club league next season.

"My advice is don't bother. You'll be found out," league manager Stefan Kamasz said.

"We are monitoring the situation and it's easy to find out which clubs are inflating the figures," he said.

IF ANYONE wonders why the Auckland Kingz are with a Zed, here's the answer.

Apparently it's not only because national basketball team Sydney Kings have objected to the use of the nickname.

There's a far more pressing marketing point to make. According to an item in the New York Times, the Zed is growing in stature as a marketing asset.

Like the Beanz in Heinz, the Kingz are hip. "The Zed is a powerful and confident letter," said a certain Joe Wolf, of a website called Zuniversity.com, in the Times.

THE Melbourne Knights want to get in early with this one. Croatian top club Hajduk Split is coming to Melbourne in December.

"They'll be playing their only Victorian game against a Melbourne Knights All-Star Select XI on Sunday, December 5, at the Knights stadium," Knights spokesperson Tonci Prusac said.

The tour is being organised by events entrepreneur Michael Edgley and a crowd of at least 10,000 is expected to turn up for the match.

It's been suggested the Knights should do a Perth Glory and erect a temporary grandstand to accommodate the crowd. Former North Geelong boy Josip Skoko and Croatian World Cup star Slaven Bilic are expected to be part of the touring party.

SERMANNI: 2ND DIV WILL BE 'SUICIDAL'

By Graham Cooke

There is still work to be done with the first division before the introduction of a second division competition, Canberra Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni believes.

"As a long-term prospect it has merits, but with the difficult financial position of so many clubs in Australia, it would be suicidal to bring in a second division now," he said.

"The blunt truth is that outside their flagship competitions, all sports in this country struggle. The danger would be having second division clubs trying to cope with much the same financial pressures as those in the first division, but with gates of just a few hundred.

"Probably the only savings available to a second division club would be in a lower wage structure. If it's a national competition then there would be just as much travelling."

What if the Cosmos were forced into a second division next season?

"It would be a huge struggle...we would probably have to revert to an entirely local squad - little more than a glorified NSW Superleague set-up.

"If Canberra are in the league, they have got to be in the first division."

NO MORE SIGNINGS

Meanwhile, barring an unforeseen and probably unprecedented run of injuries,

Canberra Cosmos will not be making any more signings this season, coach Tom Sermanni says.

"The squad have knitted together well and are the best balanced we have had for some time," he said. "I have been very fortunate that the seven signings made during the off-season have fitted in, and the other players have responded to them."

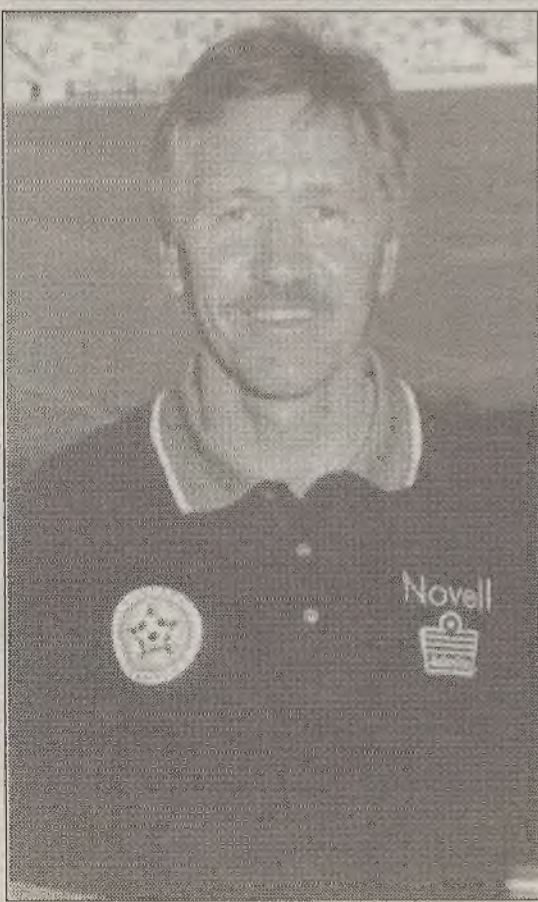
Even the loss of Alex Castro for up to eight weeks with a broken bone in his leg, and suspensions to Gabriel Gonzales and David Milin, have not seriously disrupted the coach's plans, with Michael Musitano, Glen Kolpak and Toplica Popovich standing by.

"These are players who are unlucky not to be in the starting line-up in the first place," he said.

With the Cosmos performing well away from home against Parramatta Power, Sermanni is prepared to relent on some of the trenchant criticisms he made of the team's performance against Brisbane Strikers the week before.

"I was disappointed then because so many of the things we had been doing at training were based around keeping the ball, and playing good football, and that did not happen against Brisbane," he said.

"However, in hindsight I see there was a touch of over-anxiety in the team. Being desperately keen to do well is not a fault, and hopefully the influence of our two Scottish signings, David Winnie and Brian Hamilton, will assist with the composure and control generally."



Tom Sermanni: Second Division opponent.



Toplica Popovich: Canberra defender.

DON'T WRITE US OFF, YET

Gippsland official in desperate plea

By Bert van Bedaf

"Don't write us off, yet!" That's the message Gippsland Falcons board member Ian Campbell is giving Soccer Australia, whose NSL criteria may well see the Falcons drop out of the national league next season.

The word is that the Falcons may find themselves in the much-talked about second NSL division, but Campbell believes speculation is premature.

He also mounted a passionate defence in favour of keeping regional clubs in the top league.

"As far as the Gippsland Falcons are concerned it's too early to talk about being dropped from the league," Campbell told ABSW.



Jeff Hopkins: Gippsland player-coach.

"Although we haven't won a game yet, we're confident that we're competitive. We're looking at a finals berth. We're not even thinking about playing in a second division or being omitted from the NSL next year," Campbell said.

The Morwell club, based in regional Victoria, has attracted a business consortium to back it and has appointed a new chief executive, Peter Quirk, in sweeping changes to lift its fortunes.



"We've just been through a re-organisation period. The creditors have all been settled. We are running in the black. We're looking at building our sponsorship and improving the profitability of the club over the season," Campbell said.

"It's a hard slog for regional clubs," Campbell admitted. "But we're looking wider than the Gippsland area to attract bigger sponsors. We have about 600 members and will be having a big membership drive. We're aiming for a 2000 membership next year."

"The powerbroker clubs (Perth, Northern Spirit, Parramatta, Carlton) are putting the pressure on the small ones, particularly the regional clubs."

"At the end of the year we'll be a lot sounder financially and perhaps we can look at getting some high profile players, although we're competitive with the players we've got."

"Mehmet Durakovic is to come in. Our Scottish import Sandy Robertson hasn't been playing for several games. Jeff Hopkins (player-coach) still has a knee problem and we're watching that very closely," he said.

The Falcons have also signed striker Juan Nilo, of Bentleigh Greens, as well as defender Dean Fak and top goal scorer Peter Kakos, of Port Melbourne — two successful Victorian Premier League clubs, vying for the State title next season.

"We'll be proving on the park that maybe



Mehmet Durakovic: Key Gippsland player.

you don't need to spend as much money to be competitive as the money the Carltons or the Perth are spending. Only time will tell, I guess," Campbell said.

"But it is essential regional clubs survive, because there would be a lot of guys who wouldn't have played in the national league if it wasn't for the regional clubs. It's imperative that we're kept involved. But to be involved we've got to be viable and competitive."

"We've got to come up to the guidelines that Soccer Australia have set."

"We've got to get our membership up and we've got to get our crowds up."

"These are things we're aware of and we're working on them all the time."

"I believe we can stay in the NSL next season. The new board is confident we can. They're looking at next year and the year after, not only for the short term."

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Carlton Soccer Club is urging all its supporters to bring big, bold colourful Carlton banners along to the next home game — against in-form Canberra Cosmos at 7.30 pm on Friday, 5th November.

During the first half, Carlton officials will pick one banner as that week's winner, and the creators will be asked into the centre circle at half time — with their banner if possible — to be presented with their prize — a brand new Carlton Soccer home jersey worth \$115.

The competition will run at every game between now and the end of the season — and then at the very last game the season winner will be selected from all the weekly winners.

The season winner will receive a fabulous luxury escape for two at the Athelstone Hotel in Queenscliff.

Letters to the Editor

SAVE 10-TEAM COMP FOR 2002

Dear Sir,

If it's true, as Les Murray mentioned on his "On The Ball" programme on SBS (Sunday 17 Oct) that Soccer Australia wants to reduce the competition down to 10 teams in future, I hope it is not next season, as it is too soon to play two full sets of home and away rounds which equate to 44 rounds in all.

Because the next two seasons will be shorter due to the Sydney Olympics in 2000, and the World Cup starting early in 2002 in Japan and Korea, 44 rounds of matches would have many mid-week matches to fill in the shorter season.

While the idea is good to give clubs and players more games to increase revenue to pay for higher

salaries, the Australian public as a whole isn't ready to follow and watch so much football every 3 or 4 days, unless many of the midweek games are taken out to the big country towns as Kyle Patterson also mentioned on the same programme.



Although Soccer doesn't have the high profile in the media as Rugby League and Aussie Rules, a cut of four teams at once could do more harm than good.

A cut of two teams is more sensible at this stage for at least two seasons of 14 teams, which also gives Soccer Australia more than enough time to organise mid-week games for major country towns in future.

Twenty-six rounds may not be ideal, or too short for the next two seasons.

But unless Soccer Australia can organise at least 24 games out in the major towns outside of the present



ones being played, and also underwrite any losses (if any) of moving two home games from each club to the bush towns for mid-week games, then 44 rounds would be a waste of time and money. It would mean nearly half of the games being played mid-week at normal venues (home ground).

A reduction to 12 teams is more suited after the next World Cup in 2002.

My hunch is Soccer Australia will try out with only 12 games (one home game each club at the most to start, with only the biggest towns being considered for financial reasons.



Those 12 cities or towns at this stage should be, Darwin, Townsville, Cairns, Lismore, Albury, Wagga-Wagga, Gosford, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Hobart and Wellington (NZ).

I left out the Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Mackay from Queensland as I may seem to be biased.

A once a year visit to these towns with fair dinkum games, for premiership points, should be a huge success and would also help spread the game nationally, by having future Soccer stars come from the bush towns to the big league in the NSL.

It would also help commercial TV get interested in the game if more people follow the game from the country as well as the cities.

Let's see if Soccer Australia has a real plan to take the World Game to all the people, and not just a selected few from three or four different ethnic backgrounds in future.

Dominic Scullino
Nerang, QLD.

**Send correspondence to
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Dear Sir,

Without doubt Northern Spirit's hardcore fans are unlike all others on the Australian Eastern Seaboard.

After the recent debacle against Newcastle (no surprise to me) Spirit's office was inundated with messages and comments from concerned fans.

In itself, this is most encouraging because normally OZ soccer fans are notorious for their indifference, cynicism and complacency.

It offers that Spirit have a solid core of concerned, committed and passionate fans — something that is absolutely vital to the success and long-term survival of any sports teams whatever the game.

In my opinion Spirit's troubles go back to last season where despite qualifying for the final six series they generally under performed.

This season they lost Kresimir Marusic who was arguably their best on

field player and irreplaceable.

Then there is the underlying problem with Remo Nogarotto.

A wheeler, dealer, mover and skaker with impeccable connections he may be, but like most of the current crop of OZ soccer entrepreneurs he has little or no basic knowledge or understanding of the game in my opinion.

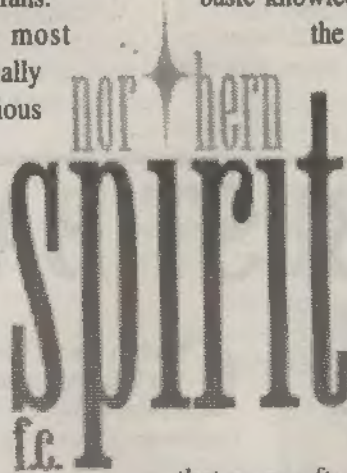
Which experienced soccer supremo of sound mind would appoint someone with no practical coaching experience or track record to a senior coaching or managerial position?

Even this dim witted writer knows

that more often than not well known players fail to make the grade as coaches or managers at senior level.

Conversely many players whose careers were totally forgettable have gone on to become world class coaches and managers.

R. Melor
Bondi, NSW.



Kresimir Marusic: Huge loss for Spirit.

Letters to the Editor

SORRY, BUT THERE IS NO AUSTRALIAN LINK

Dear Sir,

In reply to Mr R. Melor of Bond's letter printed in ABSW on October 26, 1999

Thomas Frank Roy Bentley was born in Bristol, England on May 17th 1924.

He was firstly involved in league football as a Bristol City junior during the Second World War before making his league debut with Newcastle United in June of 1946.

He made 48 appearances (22 goals) at centre forward for the 'Geordies' before transferring to Chelsea in January of 1948. He made 324 appearances for Chelsea scoring 128 goals before stints with Fulham (143 apps for 23 goals) and finally Queens Park Rangers (45 apps 0 goals) which saw his career conclude in the 1961/62 season

Roy Bentley also made 12 appearances for England as well as being a representative of the

English League and England 'B' side.

I can find no trace of any link with Roy to Australia.

For a full list of Australians to play overseas I wrote an article entitled 'The first Aussies Abroad' which was printed in the current issue of the Australian fanzine Studs Up.

It contains some interesting stories which I have carefully researched on the handful of Aussie pioneers who played in the UK right back to the turn of the century.

For a copy of the current issue of Studs Up, send \$3 to the editor of Studs Up PO Box 53 Oakleigh South, Victoria, 3167.

Greg Stock
Soccer historian
Sutherland, NSW.



OLYROOS

Olympic Coach Raul Blanco has named a 20-man squad, for the second Overseas Olyroo Camp, to be held in Tunisia this month. The Olyroo Camp will be held from November 8 to 18 inclusive, with two games set down against the Tunisian Olympic team.

Name	Club	Position
Joe Didulica	Ajax (Hol)	Goalkeeper
Danny Milosevic	Perth Glory (Aus)	Goalkeeper
Hayden Foxe (c)	Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Jap)	Defender
Stephen Laybutt	Hiratsuka Bellmare (Jap)	Defender
Chris Coyne	West Ham (Eng)	Defender
Con Blasis	South Melbourne (Aus)	Defender
Lucas Neill	Millwall (Eng)	Defender
Ivan Zelic	Adelaide Force (Aus)	Defender
Tansel Baser	Trabzonspor (Tur)	Defender
Jacob Burns	Parramatta Power (Aus)	Midfielder
Jason Culina	Ajax (Hol)	Midfielder
Vince Grella	Empoli (Ita)	Midfielder
Marco Bresciano	Empoli (Ita)	Midfielder
Bill Damianos	Xanthi (Gre)	Midfielder
Tim Cahill	Millwall (Eng)	Midfielder
Daniel Allsop	Manchester City (Eng)	Striker
Kosta Salapatis	SD Compostela (Spa)	Striker
Michael Curcija	South Melbourne (Aus)	Striker
Mile Sterjovski	Parramatta Power (Aus)	Striker
Zeljko Susa	Melbourne Knights (Aus)	Striker

BRAZIL FRIENDLIES INVALUABLE FOR 2002



Action from the Australia v Iran World Cup qualifier in 1997.

Dear Sir,

Almost two years ago on the 29th November 1997 we saw our chance of qualifying to the World Cup of 1998 slip us by once again.

Now two years on the Socceroos get the chance to play the leading nation in the world's leading sport, Brazil.

This game marks the half way point for it was two years ago since our last World Cup qualifier and it will be two years from now that we will be playing that final qualifier against the fifth placed in the South American group probably at Stadium Australia.

The time has arrived for us to put our gloves on and climb back into the ring and do our stuff.

This is the beginning of the road to the World Cup of 2002. The final qualifier will be against a South

American country so this game against Brazil is perfect to see where we are and what we need to do so as to beat our South American opponent come that final qualifier in 2001.

For the first time in a long time we have a true blue Aussie as coach. Frank Farina will lead us into battle and unite this great country of ours. It will be his first game as coach of the Socceroos and I say let's get behind him and the team and give the boys our unconditional support no matter who they play.

Make no mistake the team Brazil will bring here will be a team to win.

A team they think will do the job, their pride and reputation is at stake and to them that is everything.

It doesn't matter if it's U/17, U/20, Olympic level or a friendly against their full team, Brazil doesn't like losing to anyone no matter at what level.

This team will be filled with Brazilian representatives eager to prove themselves to coach and country.

Make no mistake, we better be ready for them. Every time Brazil take the field the world watches, they have the potential to field two to three world class sides.

They won't be taking these games lightly and it will be a great experience for our Socceroos and all of their supporters.

It will be special to watch Brazil in action for they are the most capped nation in World Cup history and that speaks for itself, but for me it will be just as special to watch our boys in action.

This team has the potential to take us to the World Cup of 2002. We played Brazil in the Confederation Cup two years ago and drew 0-0 —

that really peeved them off.

So the next time they came out and hit us for six beating us 6-0 in the final

This time let's show them our great Aussie fighting spirit and courage to die for.

Come on Australia show us what you've got. Get behind the Socceroos and our new coach.

May the soccer family come together in force to support our boys in battle on the 14 November and give the Brazilians a night to remember as we start our preparations for the road to the World Cup of 2002.

Spread the word, come on all you soccer fans be positive and lift your heads don't you know we are on the march again.

Paul Bottari
Balcatta, WA



TRIALS

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

CANBERRA COSMOS 1
PERTH GLORY 1

By Graham Cooke

The way the modern game is run weighed heavily on the 1-1 draw between Canberra Cosmos and Perth Glory at Bruce Stadium on Friday night.

When New Zealand referee Brian Precious dismissed Perth's Brazilian defender, Edgar Junior, in the 32nd minute, he was applying the letter of football law the way FIFA wants it — impersonally, without discretion, with no regard to mitigating circumstances.

It was fairly obvious Precious gave himself some time to consider his verdict after he had whistled up Junior for tugging back Ivo de Jesus close to the edge of the Perth penalty area.

He took the defender to one side and appeared to give him a long lecture before finally reaching for his notebook and the red card.

In the end FIFA's policy of justice without mercy prevailed. The result was a game spoilt, and a good slice of entertainment denied the 3,760 spectators at Bruce Stadium.

Neither coach had a good word to say about the decision. Perth's Bernd Strang said it "was a hard thing for the referee to do...it changed the complexion of the game because we had only one striker, with the other one playing as a wing back."

More surprisingly, Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni was not particularly pleased at having to play against a 10-man opponent. "It was a better game when it was 11 v 11," he said.

"There were two teams out there playing good football, getting up into attack, creating good chances."

"After they got the lad sent off, Perth played the 10-man game very well. They got behind the ball, soaked up the pressure, and they frustrated us."

And everyone else, especially the supporters who were beginning to settle to an enthralling, free-flowing contest.

After just four minutes a delightful passage of play involving Ivo de Jesus and Jason Polak ended in Daniel Watkins shooting wide of the Perth goal.

The ever-dangerous Bobby Despotovski probably should have done better with an unchallenged header following a Perth corner; Canberra's Scottish import Brian Hamilton shot just over the bar; Tony Franken raved well from Watkins and, at the other end, another effort from Despotovski went across the face of the goal.

All this was before the 32nd minute send-off. Afterwards the incidents — and excitement — thinned considerably.

There were a couple of goals — neither will feature in any contest for the strike of the season. Canberra's opener in the 56th minute was especially messy: Watkins headed a de Jesus corner back across goal, defender Jamie Harnwell attempted a wild clearance, and instead drove the ball straight into Toplica Popovich who had to do no more than nudge it over the line.

Perth's equaliser six minutes later stemmed from Michael Musitano's failure to keep the ball away from Despotovski.

The striker took the ball into the penalty area, and with the defence in chaos slipped a pass for Con Boutsianis to tap in at the far post.

With this, the remaining interest passed from the contest as Perth gratefully accepted its second chance for a point, and took no more chances.

Cosmos' two Scottish imports, making their first home appearances, had mixed fortunes. Brian Hamilton showed up well early on with some good runs and ball distribution, but twisted his ankle and lost considerable mobility, eventually being substituted. David Winnie was steady and competent without being spectacular.

Harry James was also forced from the field after taking a knock and Sermanni will be thankful that utility player David Milin, back from suspension, will be available for this week's game at Carlton.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 3
PARRAMATTA POWER 1

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers continued their stunning early season form when they dealt Parramatta Power their third straight blackout with a resounding 3-1 win at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The Strikers, written off by bookmakers following an off season player drain, are now back at the top of the national league table with a clear two point lead after recording their fourth win in five matches.

The only points the Strikers have dropped this year were in the dying minutes against Northern Spirit who fought back to draw 2-all the previous round.

The Strikers led 2-nil at halftime but were on the backfoot for most of the second half as the Sydney fulltime professionals rallied in a spirited fightback.

The Power, who appear to be having trouble coping with full time professionalism, lost their previous two games but looked capable of staging a draw until Perth referee Eddie Lennie awarded the homeside a penalty in the 81st minute.

The penalty, executed perfectly by Paul Foster giving him his fourth goal in as many matches, came after Lennie judged Power defender Peter Bennett had handballed in the penalty box.



Peter Bennett: Sent off for handball.

The handball brought a second yellow card and a sendoff for Bennett.

The Strikers had led 2-nil at halftime after goals from new signings Peter Dwyer and Peter Grierson but the match became set for a thrilling finish when Power scored through Mile Sterjovski in the 69th minute.

The Striker's opening goal came in the 20th minute through midfielder Dwyer who slotted home from an acute angle.

A cross from defender Andrew Davidson floated in for Grierson whose shot on goal was saved brilliantly in a reflex action by Power keeper Andrew Crews.

Unfortunately Crews' clearance was punched out to Dwyer who made no mistake despite the acute angle.

The Strikers increased their lead in the 35th minute after Crews again perfected an acrobatic save from a Paul Foster header but this time his clearance fell to Grierson who repeated Dwyer's acute angled shot.

ADELAIDE FORCE 0
CARLTON 0

By Allan Crisp

Not all nil-all games are duds, but this one certainly qualified in that category. But, when referee Con Dimis mercifully sounded the final whistle, Carlton coach Stuart Munro had kept intact his remarkable unbeaten record at this Adelaide venue.

On the surface, the clash appeared to be a mismatch with Force, through their own inept planning in prematurely retiring Milan Ivanovic and releasing Corey Arnone and Danny Vidakovic, was barely able to field a squad.

One of the Force's threadbare squad, Shane Thompson, was registered with the NSL just four hours before game time.

By contrast, Carlton's riches were evident with gun players. Mark Atkinson, Archie Thompson and John Markovski occupying a star-studded bench.

Dongri Ki-Kim failed a pre-match test on his injured ankle, yet was named as a substitute, joining Thompson and John Fusco, 20, as the rookie home side reserve.

With Nick Sabljak and Carlo Talladira still sidelined through injury, the new-look Force had Vilson Knezevic, Ivan Zelic and Matthew Kemp making their home run-on debuts.

Fusco was called into the fray in the 38th minute when Force captain Alex Tobin compounded the agony of a frustrating week by breaking down with a groin injury.

Force had saved nothing for a rainy day and this was a rainy night when neither side reigned.

Adversity had earlier belted the Blues when in the 12th minute, Joe (Tricky) Tricarico was carried off after twisting a knee, paving the way for the introduction of tough Kiwi competitor, Atkinson.

Carlton was unlucky not to have snared a stoppage time winner when big Markovski thundered a 20 metre free-kick which was deflected against the far post before being cleared by the grateful Force defence.

And the Blues housed valid reasons for claiming a 28th minute goal when a lob from impressive Scot, Mike Conroy was clumsily palmed and fumbled back towards his net by the startled Knezevic.

Visiting players in the vicinity of the incident claimed the "goal" but Munro later said his men did not yell loudly enough to reinforce the accusation.

Carlton was denied a certain goal three minutes into the second half as Carl Veart made a spectacular hitch-kick clearance off the Force goalline to thwart a downward header from industrious defender Dave McPherson.

Reborn Soccerroo, Damian Mori typically foraged to be the home team man most likely to score, but his finishing prowess floundered on the slippery pitch.

Man-of-the-match, Lubo Lapsansky, McPherson and Conroy, posed the only seriously dangerous threats to the Force goal, while Mori, Brad Hassell and Zelic gave Carlton custodian Dean Anastasiadis his rare chances for a little exercise.

The corner count of three flag kicks apiece told the story of the game's lack of attacking aggression.

Lapsansky, though, found the time and space to fire testing long range efforts at the strangely jittery Knezevic, who had performed with credible calm the previous week in Perth.

Silky skilled Vidmar was the most effective player for the Force with his quick-thinking first time touches a delight to behold, while Angelo Costanzo swept with authority.

When Tobin reluctantly departed, Zelic switched to the middle of the defence with Fusco moving to the vacant left flank.

Inexperienced Michael Cartwright and Kemp were unfazed by the enormity of the occasion and stamped themselves as future stars.



Lubo Lapsansky: Man of the match.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1

By John Economos

A controversial 'own goal' in the 17th minute last Friday night enabled an unusually hungry Sydney Olympic to defeat a luckless Northern Spirit 0-1 at the North Sydney Oval in arguably the best action packed battle seen so far this season. As a spectacle the entertainment value was

But despite this goal, the Spirit almost pulled the match out of the fire four minutes into stoppage time.

Aggressive defender Luke Casserly had pushed well up on the left to cross to the first post for his striker David Seal. From point blank range Seal blasted but Olympic's heroic goalkeeper George Bouhoutsos made a fabulous reflex save.

And six minutes into the second session, Seal should have scored an equaliser that could have so easily turned the match 180 degrees.

This time player-coach Graham Arnold, who had started the game in the sweeper's role, pushed up into the attack line for the second half and head flicked on to Seal. With Bouhoutsos racing well off his line in seeing the danger, Seal in attempting to clip the ball over him, also just cleared the horizontal.

A serious and sullen assistant Spirit coach Ian Crook was left in no doubt that Olympic's goal came from a 'hand ball' as he addressed the media.

"I feel their goal was a 'hand ball' but we could have been down by three or four goals at halftime," said Crook.

In a spectacular action packed three seconds in the 17th minute, Olympic's left midfielder Lindsay Wilson crossed into the Spirit's box where lanky striker Zlatko Arambasic blasted onto the Spirit's post with fellow striker Pablo Cardozo heading the rebound onto the underside of the cross bar.

But as the ball spun back into play, and as Cardozo was about to connect yet again, he was barreled from behind by his own player, towering stopper Ante Juric who was also hungry to make contact with the rebound.

Cardozo later confessed to ABSW: "I was about to hit it again and in the wild scramble I was knocked from behind, and the ball deflected off my arm and crossed the line."

A very cruel blow for the Spirit to lose a match, but in fact the Spirit in the first session was almost totally overpowered by a highly electrified Olympic midfield that hungrily won the ball time after time.

In this department the 'steel content' was constantly provided by the industrious Marcus Phillips and Scotty Thomas whilst Cardozo and playmaker Gabriel Mendez repeatedly tore gaping holes in the Spirit's defence lines with their excellent ball skills and crossings.

Cardozo may have been the unwilling culprit in the 'illegal' goal being awarded, but in reality he started throughout the entire match.

Using his wonderful control and peripheral vision, he constantly dropped back deep and opened up the Spirit with his lateral or diagonal crosses, long through balls to supporting players plus firing at the target from long range at least four great shots.

The Spirit understandably felt downhearted at their third loss in five outings, but in all honesty Olympic was flying so high that they could have defeated any other team, on the night, the way they played.

One very furious Spirit player later in the dressing rooms stated: "There is some very bad refereeing in the NSL and we have now lost three matches with some very bad decisions. You just can't talk to them as they threaten you with cards."

Rarely has Olympic played with such vigour, fight, fire and great unselfishness which over the many years in the NSL has notoriously characterised their style of play.

Only one Olympic player failed to unite and contribute to team play. His selfishness cost his team a possible two more goals by failing to pass.

In the seventh minute a power laden 30 metre drive by the Spirit's stopper Matthew Bingley following a Matthew Langdon cross from the left and hooked on by Seal, saw the on target hot missile upped over the bar by Bouhoutsos.

In the 27th minute the Spirit 'keeper Johnny Perosh made a magnificent block to deny Cardozo joy with his lightning pivoted blast from eight metres. Cardozo again missed a goal in the 37th minute when he unleashed a lethal left footed drive from just inside the box that flashed inches wide of the left upright.

Olympic was playing with such hunger and high confidence, throwing everything 'but the kitchen sink' at the Spirit, it was a wonder how the north Sydneysiders held out.

Substitute striker and former Olympic player Abbas Saad came on for the Spirit and seven minutes from normal time let fly a violent rocketing drive from 35 metres that had Bouhoutsos fully stretched to his left for a mighty save.

Olympic's coach Branko Culina stated later "It would have been unjust had they scored at the end."

Outstanding for Olympic were Cardozo, Bouhoutsos, Mendez, Thomas, Tsekens, Phillips, Baillie and Juric whilst for the Spirit Perosh, Casserly, Arnold and Langdon refused to yield.

TURN TO PAGE 32 MATCH STATISTICS

The Four Diegos

This week's special guest: South Melbourne coach

Angie Postecoglou



AUSTRALIA'S STORMIN' NORMAN

Diegos: "I want to take you back, way back to your days as a fledgling full back for South Melbourne-Hakoah reserves, playing in front of 12 people and a dog at the windswept Middle Park ground and I want you to tell me that you knew that your destiny was to, one day, lead your beloved South Melbourne onto the Maracana in Brazil against Manchester United in a world rated contest."

"The Diegos want to know how wild your dreams really were in those days?"

Postecoglou: "My wildest dreams had nothing to do with soccer back then. But I was thinking about the whole thing recently and I don't think you could have come up with a script like this for a movie."

Diegos: "Manchester United, Brazilian team and former World Club champions, Vasco Da Gama, and Mexican champions, Necaxa are in your group, a group labeled by the Diegos as the 'Group of death by 1,000 cuts'."

"You are Australia's NSL version of Stormin' Norman Schwarzkoff. What's the strategy? Will it be guerilla warfare or a good old fashion Aussie pub slug fest?"

Postecoglou: "We're actually planning a covert operation."

"People have been saying that it would be great if a couple of the Manchester United boys could be kidnapped in Rio, but the only problem is that they would have to take twenty three of them."

"We will go over there with the label of easybeats and people will right us off. But funny things do happen."

Diegos: "Do you find it ironic that after the game against Northern Spirit you felt the need to lambast the Melbourne media for paying scant regard to your team, yet in Rio you were hounded to saturation point by the soccer paparazzi?"

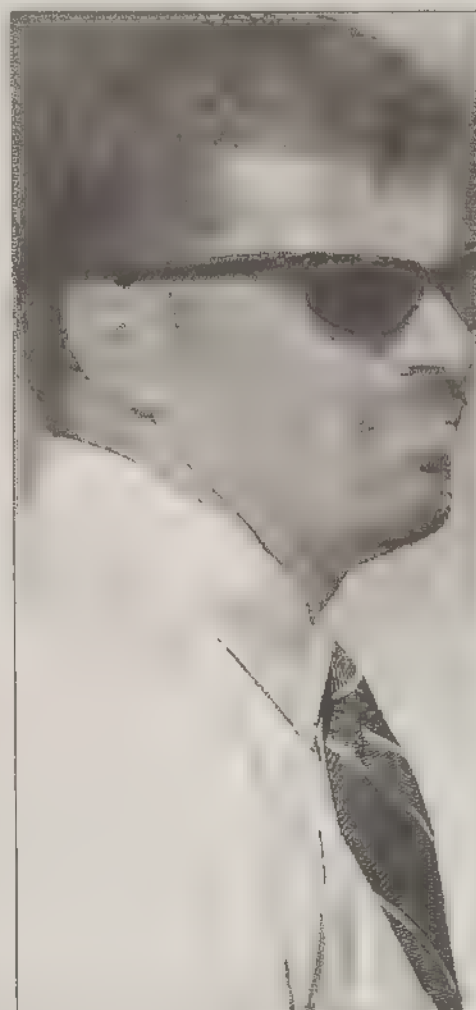
Postecoglou: "It's not in my nature to make too many comments after a game, but I felt that I had to do it with that game. Yes I was annoyed because in Rio people were curious about us and wanted to know about the club even if it was only for novelty value at times."

"I guess I was expecting a little more emphasis on our club from the press in Melbourne, and we didn't get that before our first game of the season. It was annoying."

"What people need to understand is that we will be representing the whole country and the

region. So people shouldn't be worrying that other clubs are going to get their nose out of joint because our club is getting a little more exposure. If we get good results in Brazil it won't necessarily be a reflection on South Melbourne, it will be a reflection on the standard in our country and region."

Diegos: "Were any of the paparazzi looking for George Michael and stumbled across you instead?"



Angie Postecoglou: South Melbourne coach.

Postecoglou: "Just as well they didn't ask me to sing. Generally the press over there knew who we were and what we were about."

"They had obviously done their homework and hammered our website. One thing I can comment on was the fact that they didn't treat us any differently to the other big name clubs over there and that was pleasing."

Diegos: "After the game against Northern Spirit you uncharacteristically slammed the Carlton SC Beer Garden with Fred Nile type gusto and then went on to describe the Carlton v Gippsland Falcons game as the

equivalent of Wimbledon v Bradford, whilst your game was more like a Manchester United v Chelsea affair."

"You're not one to usually be so outspoken. Are you concerned at all that you may have given the Blues a little bit of ammunition for future clashes?"

Postecoglou: "Not in the least concerned. My comments are not based on caning any particular club, but rather what the press are emphasising about the game. We shouldn't be reading about beer gardens or revolving restaurants, we should be reading about what is happening on the field, the players that play for us, the heroes and villains that make the game what it is."

"This is what will attract the crowds and once you have got them through the gates then highlight the facilities that will keep them there."

Diegos: "Someone once said that 'Soccer is a funny game', so funny, it seems, that within 24 hours of being drawn to play the mighty Manchester United at the Maracana, your team, South Melbourne lost 1-0 to the Auckland Football Kingz in New Zealand."

"For the cynics, especially in the British tabloid press who have not been too complimentary about South Melbourne's participation in the World Club Championship, how do you convince people, especially your own players, that you belong in Brazil?"

Postecoglou: "I don't believe that I have to convince anybody about us being in this competition. Anybody with half a soccer brain would know that this is a great opportunity to promote club soccer all over the world. We don't expect to go over there and win the competition, but we do expect to show the rest of the world what Australian soccer is all about."

Diegos: "Thanks Angie. Perhaps we'll catch you at the South Melbourne 'Tzatziki Dip and Retsina' garden next home game at the Bob Jane. Adios Amigo."

Postecoglou: "Thank Diegos. I can't wait — I'll shout the first round. Adios Diegos."



STANMORE HAWKS

SOCCER TRIALS FOR 2000 SEASON

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Trials will be held for all grades on Tuesday and
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TEMPE

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MENS
DIVISION 1



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Thursday 4th November at 7.30pm
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Tuesday 9th November at 7.30pm
Thursday 11th November at 7.30pm
Sunday 14th November at 4.30pm

Contacts:

Arthur Sullivan (H) 9825 2397, 9648 5007
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ALSO

YOUTH AND CADET LEAGUE TRIALS

U/11 & U/12 Monday 25th October at 5.30pm
U/11 & U/12 Monday 1st November at 5.30pm
U/11 & U/12 Monday 8th November at 5.30pm
U/13 & U/14 Tuesday 28th October at 5.00pm
U/13 & U/14 Tuesday 2nd November at 5.00pm
U/13 & U/14 Tuesday 9th November at 5.00pm
U/15 & U/16 Tuesday 26th October at 7.00pm
U/15 & U/16 Tuesday 2nd November at 7.00pm
U/15 & U/16 Tuesday 9th November at 7.00pm

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Saturday from 10am to noon.
They can be contacted by e-mail on fourdiegos@bigpond.com

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

AUCKLAND KINGZ 3
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 3

Two second half send offs cost Wollongong Wolves dearly as Auckland Kingz came from a two-goal deficit to snatch a thrilling 3-all draw in Auckland on Saturday.

The Kingz trailed 2-nil at halftime and were 3-1 down midway through the second half before snatching two late goals to share the points.

In a physical match the Wolves had five players booked including goalkeeper Leslie Pogliacomi and two more, Esala Masi and David Huxley sent off in the second half.

Worse still Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos may face a lengthy ban following an incident against referee Matthew Breeze.

The incident flared at the end of the match with the Kingz.

Theodorakopoulos was fuming after the Kingz fought to level at 3-3 with an equaliser almost five minutes into added time against the nine-man Wollongong team.

Theodorakopoulos right on full-time angrily went on to the field and jostled with the referee as his players moved in to restrain their coach.



Esala Masi: sent off

The Wollongong Wolves coach did not attend the media conference later.

Theodorakopoulos could face severe penalties and a lengthy suspension after the NSL judicial tribunal scrutinises the whole case.

Fiji international Masi was the first to go for the visitors in the 69th minute following a vicious tackle on Chris Jackson then ten minutes later Huxley went after a dangerous kick on Kingz skipper Harry Ngala.

Wollongong got off to a great start after only three minutes when captain Matt Horsley tucked away a good cross to put the homeside up 1-nil.

Paul Reid made it 2-nil in the 38th minute blasting home from close range.

The Kingz reduced the lead to one goal when Fred de Jong headed in a cross from Chilean player Aaron Silva shortly after the break.

However, the Wolves struck back when Masi ran to the right of the box from a long pass to hammer home past Michael Utting to make it 3-1.

The Kingz refused to give in narrowing the margin again when Che Bunce put in a low cross for Dino Mennillo to tuck home.

Wollongong looked set to take maximum points until substitute Lee Jackson came on in the 90th minute scoring the equalizer for the homeside in the fifth minute of extra time after being set-up in front by De Jong.

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

By Damian Tripodi

The Gippsland Falcons fighting display and cohesive teamwork rewarded them with a deserved 1-0 win over the up to now unbeaten, Newcastle Breakers.

The Gippsland win helped silence the prophets of doom, who, following last week's disastrous performance against South Melbourne had the Falcons condemned and sentenced to death.

On Saturday, the Falcons took the ground looking like a winner right from the outset. The team looked invigorated, well organised and nothing like the losing side of them previous week.

Inspired by the return of their captain Mehmet Durakovic following a nagging groin injury, the Falcons were first to the ball, with excellent disposal and always looked dangerous, especially in set plays.

"We worked hard at set pieces and it paid dividends," stated Gippsland coach Jeff Hopkins.

Durakovic played a much needed "General's" role in defence, contributing well and giving guidance to others.

Newcastle, on the other hand early in the game could not respond to the Falcons' vehemence. Their play was uncoordinated, but there were some creditable individual performances especially from Andy Harper and Shane Pryce.

"We didn't want to play football and were punished on set play," stated coach Lee Sterrey after the game.

After some very good early attempts, the Gippslanders almost got on the scoreboard at the 18th minute when the elusive Juan Nilo received a good through ball from Robbie Puca and beat his marker. Breakers' keeper Bob Catlin came out and managed to stretch his leg out just enough to deflect the ball for a corner.

A few moments later, Puca, from 35 metres sent a rocket like free-kick which curled over the defensive wall and just missed the upright.

The Falcons goal came about at the 26th minute. Defender Manny Gotis ran into a long diagonal cross coming from the right, timed his header perfectly and the ball was in the net.

Gotis also had the task of minding Newcastle danger man John Buonavoglia and kept the striker right out of the game.

At the 33rd minute another excellent chance went begging for the Falcons when Nilo's shot bounced off Catlin. He regained the ball, turned and under pressure kicked it right into the hands of the keeper.

The home side maintained their momentum and made several other attempts at scoring, however, in the last five minutes of the half, Newcastle lifted their work rate and put the Falcons under pressure, resulting in shots at goal by Robbie Angieski and Harper.

The second half was a more balanced affair with Newcastle creating more opportunities. They pushed three men up front, but the Gippslanders were able to alter their tactics and counter act any move.

With injury time looming, Nilo again was in the action, a good exchange between he and MacNicol, back heel to Andy Vargas who almost made it two for the Falcons.



Mehmet Durakovic

Gippsland coach Jeff Hopkins stated after the game that his team played to the letter.

"It was a matter of getting behind them and put them under pressure," said the coach.

Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey said that although his team played better in the second half, "we created more opportunities, but our crosses were diabolical."

MARCONI STALLIONS 2
SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

By John Economos

Marconi's extremely late substitute striker Kris Trajanovski, scored an excellent 'killer goal' in the 89th minute, just 60 seconds after coming on, to cement the Sydney team's 2-0 win over current National Soccer League champions South Melbourne on Sunday night at the Marconi Stadium.

The always constructive and always unselfish former Youth and Senior international, Trajanovski this time with ice-cool composure finished off a sudden break out by Marconi in the dying seconds of the match.

A long ball pumped wide to the right by energetic blond midfielder Darren McDonald, found mobile marksman Zeljko Babic scooting away to cross to the left flank. The alert Trajanovski controlled well and with a solid right booted placed shot, hit the bottom right corner to the far post to seal Souths' doom.

Marconi drew first blood on the half hour mark from their highly underrated goalscoring defender, Chad Gibson. Following a corner from the right side, Souths' Anthony Magnacca only managed to top his attempted clearing header which spilled out to the left and behind him.

The lurking and ever-dangerous Gibson who had pushed up, promptly slammed a violent flat drive that flashed between the first post and Souths' former Hungarian international goalkeeper Milan Udvarnacs.

Elatedly Gibson raced away in jubilation, pulling his Marconi shirt over his head to reveal a T-shirt emblazoned with the huge face of his idol and black African political patriarch, Nelson Mandela.

Gibson later confessed to ABSW, "Although I was born and raised in Australia, my parents originated from South Africa where Mandela is my hero. I did the same when I scored in Perth against the Glory, but that time I was booked by the same referee (Gerry Connolly) as we had tonight," ended the 23 year old.

Souths were fortunate they didn't fall a further goal behind as two minutes later Marconi's McDonald crossed into the box, however skipper Brad Maloney's header flew onto the crossbar.

Marconi had taken the field without their injured and experienced star twin international stoppers in Mark Babic and Dominic Longo, but make-shift markers Gibson and the always steely Mike Smith, gave coach Eddie Krncevic remarkable mobility as well as premium marking. Lanky striker Francis Awantefe was also missing whilst Souths' were without their mercurial schemer and captain Paul Trimboli plus right wingback Goran Lozanovski.

Marconi's reshuffled and rejuvenated outfit however proved too strong for the champions on a heavy rain soaked track.

A corner whipped in in the 66th minute, saw Zeljko Babic's back-header from the first post ricochet off the back post, whilst a minute later Souths' real chance to pull level failed when striker Michael Curcija from close range was twice denied by Marconi's 18 year old and courageous goalkeeper Michael Turnbull.

The 77th minute saw Gibson again drift forward to let fly an on-target rising rocket that the Souths' keeper was barely able to tip over his 'roof'.

Outstanding for Marconi were triple central defenders Gibson, Smith and free-back Buddy Farah, whilst Souths' best and Man Of The Match, was industrious midfielder David Clarkson plus sweeper Steve Iosifidis and Anthony Magnacca.

Marconi's suave coach Eddie Krncevic, was not too over elated with his team's performance, electing to state, "We trained very hard every night during the week to be ready to meet Souths who are a class act and being Australia's champions are a real quality side. You can't take it away from them as their good record shows. We still have to improve on a couple of things, but tonight I felt our defence was very mobile with Farah (Buddy) fast coming out."

When ABSW complimented on Gibson's performance, Krncevic endorsed it by saying, "He is a total professional and can play in the midfield like a modern day player. In other words a complete footballer."

"As far as Marconism is concerned, well it has taken him awhile to get used to the Australian style. With Kris (Trajanovski) well he's been real patient and to be fair he's been used everywhere and I was very pleased the way he took his goal very, very well," ended a calm Krncevic.

Meanwhile, the always solemn and sceptical Souths' boss Angie Postecoglou, quietly expressed his disappointment, stating, "This result wasn't good, as we played very well, but in patches only, as we lost concentration. We have not found consistency yet and have been good only at home. The team we had out there tonight should have been good enough to win the game and we are not that good to be able to take the foot off the pedal."

"At the end we were chasing the game. We had a lot of possession and now we have lost three of our five games which is far from being good enough."

When questioned about missing his injured star players such as sensational skipper Paul Trimboli (groin) and right wingback Goran Lozanovski (fractured jaw), Postecoglou wisely and instantly recoiled with, "Now we are talking about individuals, but as a team we are inconsistent and you just can't have two or three individual players carrying any team and still hope to do well."

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
SYDNEY UNITED 0

By Bert van Bedaf

Labor opposition leader Kim Beazley descended on Somers St to sell the republican Yes vote and an inspired Knights outfit rallied to their own cause, beating fellow Croatian club Sydney United 1-0 last Sunday for their first win of the season.

Knights coach Joe Biskic showed a relieved smile. Another loss could have meant his demise, but the players got behind their embattled coach and stepped up when it counted most.

Adrian Cervinski made a triumphant return from Sydney Olympic to Sunshine with a busy display up front, partnering Myjo Trupkovic in the absence of injured Ivan Kelic and playing a major role despite obviously lacking some match fitness.

The popular striker lasted the distance and helped give coach Joe Biskic his first points for the season.

"It's great. Our first win. They (United) put some pressure on us in the second half, but we handled it well and we won the game. Cervinski had a great shot that went onto the bar and Trupkovic headed it in. Cervinski made a lot of difference," Biskic said.

"I told the boys as long as we score first, we'll get some confidence back. It was important for us to score first and we did," he said.

United coach David Ratcliffe made no excuses. "This was the worst we've played all season. The Knights were more committed than we were. We did not commit ourselves and that's not the way. The Knights got what they deserved today. They were the better side," Ratcliffe said.

The Knights engineered their first opportunity after 13 minutes from a Zeljko Susa pass. The classy midfielder, likely to swap Melbourne for an overseas venture soon, connected with Alex Kiratzoglou who crossed the ball into the box. Midfielder Michael Reda, starting in place of the suspended Mark Silic, rose at the near post but headed just wide.

Cervinski had his first shot, a half volley outside the box, two minutes later, but United keeper Brett Hughes easily saved. Ransford Banini headed wide a Susa cross in the 26th minute.

United's first chance arrived after 30 minutes, when former Knight Tom Pondeljak unleashed a powerful drive, which Knights keeper Martin John parried before securing the ball.

But straight from the counter Cervinski was only centimetres away from putting the Knights ahead. His right foot shot on the edge of the box drove through the United defence and swung just wide of the far post.

The Knights prodigal son was instrumental in his side's opening goal. His 30-metre shot was palmed onto the bar by a desperate Hughes, but an alert Trupkovic headed the rebound in an exposed goal for the Knights' third goal in five matches.

Only minutes later Cervinski put through Susa inside the box for what could have been a second goal to the Knights. Susa reached Trupkovic at close range, but this time Hughes intervened and Susa sidefooted the rebound over the bar, leaving the Somers St club a goal up at half time.

The Sydneysiders got their second chance a minute after the interval, but Nick Bosevski's shot on the turn flew over the bar. United continued to press, but the Knights defence with Banini and Rod Vargas in charge, held firm.

United got its last chance four minutes from the finish, when Vargas fouled Bosevski just outside the box. But Nahuel Arrarte's freekick sailed over the wall and wide of goal.

For the first time in five rounds the Knights looked the better side. The season may have turned the corner for the former champions. They play South Melbourne on Sunday for another tough encounter.

"It will be hard, but we're looking forward to the game. We'll prepare ourselves for that match," Biskic said.

TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR MATCH STATISTICS

TOWARDS SYDNEY 2000

AT A GLANCE

Full Name: Michael Curcija
 Club: South Melbourne Soccer Club
 Nickname: Clj
 Date Of Birth: 27th June 1977
 Left or right footed? Right
 Eye Colour: Blue-Grey
 Hair Colour: Blonde
 Height: 182cm
 Weight: 79kg
 Positions Played: Striker

THE STATS

League Appearances: 96
 Goals scored: 32
 Olyroo (Under-23) Appearances: 18
 (Vs International opp)
 Olyroo Goals (Vs International opp): 7
 National Representative Honours (other): Young Socceroos
 Number of Seasons with current Club: 4th
 Clubs Played For (current first): South Melbourne, AIS, Heidelberg, Bulleen
 Junior Clubs: Rosanna, Bulleen, Heidelberg
 Age I started playing soccer: 5

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight to date: Back to back championships with South Melbourne and representing Australia
 Biggest Achievement to date: Representing Australia
 Ambition: To play at the Sydney Olympics &

PERSONALITY

A dinner party for 6, and you can invite anybody — living, dead, fact or fiction — who do you invite?
 Robert de Niro, Cindy Crawford, Dennis Rodman, Andrew Dice Clay, Sting, Myself.
 What do you serve for 3 courses?
 Entrée: seafood
 Main Course: Eye fillet, Greek salad and wine
 Dessert: Cindy Crawford
 If you could be a character from any movie, who would you be?
 The Godfather
 Favourite Comedian: Andrew Dice Clay
 Last Book read: Donnie Brascoe
 Favourite Band/Singer: Pearl Jam
 Last CD bought: Cypress Hill
 Favourite TV Show: WCW Wrestling
 Favourite TV Personality: Sting (wrestler)
 Favourite TV Character: Al Bundy
 Favourite Cartoon Character: Homer Simpson
 What is your worst habit?
 Snoring
 Soccer Superstitions? Always stand 9th in line walking out onto the pitch
 What is your most prized possession?
 My legs
 What is the best advice you received or favourite quote?

"Those born with natural talent have a responsibility to use it properly." — Muhammad Ali

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Gabriel Batistuta
 Favourite Overseas Team: Liverpool and Real Madrid
 Most Admired Australian (based local): Paul Trimball
 Most Admired Australian (based OS): Harry Kewell
 Most Admired Defender: Fernando Hierro
 Most Admired Midfielder: Fernando Redondo
 Most Admired Striker: Gabriel Batistuta
 Most Admired Goalkeeper: Peter Schmeichel
 Hardest Opponent (player): Nick Orlic & Con Blatsis at training
 Hardest Opponent (team): Argentine National Team
 Dream choice of which world league?: Spanish League
 Most admired Sportsperson: Michael Schumacher
 Major influences: My father and family
 Words of advice: "Work hard but enjoy yourself"

Olyroo file # 4

MICHAEL CURCIJA

Q: How do you think Sydney 2000 could change your life?

A: I don't think it will change my life drastically. Don't get me wrong, it will be an unbelievable experience, but at the same time, it will just be a part of my life. In the end, while it's one of the biggest tournaments, life goes on as normal after it, and that's how I'm looking at it. It won't be the be all and end all of my soccer career, but it will certainly be a big stepping stone.

Q: Why will the Olyroos perform well at Sydney 2000?

A: Because we will have had a good, long preparation. Most of this squad has been together for around three years in the lead-up, a lot of players have international and overseas experience and that helps.

Q: What motivates you?

A: Fear of losing.

Q: What inspires you?

A: Scoring goals — it's a loop effect, the more I score, the more I'm inspired, then the more I score etc.

Q: Con Blatsis is both a South Melbourne team-mate and an Olyroo team-mate — does it help, particularly mentally, having him around?

A: For sure. Con and I have known each other since we were 14 and we're close off the park as well as on it.

It's good to be able to talk to him about things you can't talk to too many other people about, and we spend quite a bit of time talking Olyroos and Olympics — everything from tours coming up, to players who we think are playing well, to preparations — everything you can think of, we talk about it.

Q: You are in top goal scoring form for South Melbourne at the moment — is your position in the Olyroo squad something that's always on your mind, or does it just have its place in the



Michael Curcija: South Melbourne goalscorer.

scheme of things, and is not something you're particularly conscious of when you're on the field and scoring for your Club.

A: I think when I'm actually out there playing, it's nothing more than wanting to do well for my team mates and my club, but during the week, at training and preparation, it is on my mind that having a good season is important for me. It's not really a burden, because you have to face these pressures, and it's one of the things I have to deal with — it's just how you deal with it. I suppose I just take it in my stride, but I also deal with it by not thinking about it on match day. About the only person I speak to about it though is my girlfriend, who really knows what's going on in my head.

Q: How would you describe yourself as a player, and where (and why) do you fit into the Olyroo Squad?

A: I'm a good goalscorer, who manages to position myself in the box and get into good striking positions.

I'd be one of the better finishers going around in terms of Olyroos

strikers, and in terms of goalscoring, not too many would have a better record than I do.

Q: At 22, you're in your 4th year at South Melbourne — is that a good thing or a bad thing?

A: Of course it's a good thing — I'm with the best club in Australia, and if I wasn't here, I wouldn't have won two championships. I also think that during this time, I've learned how important it is to have not only good players but also good characters in your team, in terms of good team spirit. I'd never placed much importance on that in the past, but at South Melbourne, it's not just a matter of having good players, but a matter of playing for each other and sticking up for each other, that's what makes us a great team.

Q: You've played a number of games with the Olyroos now over a couple of years — how and why is the team improving?

A: I think that there's still a lot more improvement to come in the next six months as the European players are coming back into the squad to give it a little more shape.

The last couple of tours have seen everyone play as one, everyone knows the system and everyone is sticking to it, which helps the team as a whole.

Q: What are you hoping to achieve personally over the next 12 months?

A: I want to be the League's top scorer this year, and I've got off to a good start obviously make the Olympic Squad, and for the 12 months, that's about it — I can't really achieve much more in 12 months

Q: What do you think are the pros and the cons of fighting for selection while playing in Australia?

A: The advantage is that Raul (Blanco) has an eye on you every week and sees, or gets reports from Melbourne after every game. The disadvantage would be that the overseas players probably have more of a professional set up, but a lot of the players who are European based are not playing week in and week out, which is another plus for me, because I am.

Q: Is there any one particular member of this current squad who you feel stands out?

A: Two actually, Harry Kewell obviously, and Hayden Foxe. I've known Hayden from the AIS days when he was always a great player and still is — Harry has achieved so much in the last couple of years, you have to admire that.

Q: And your final words for the Australian public?

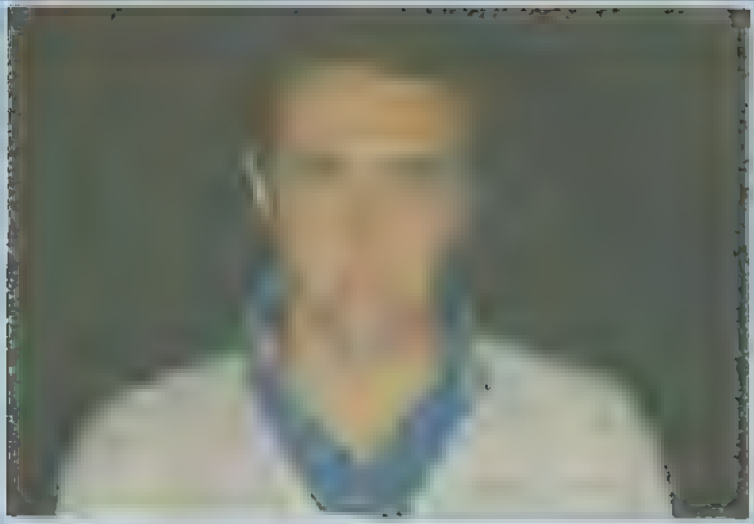
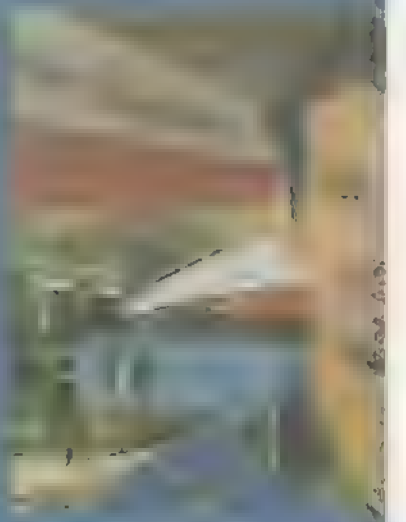
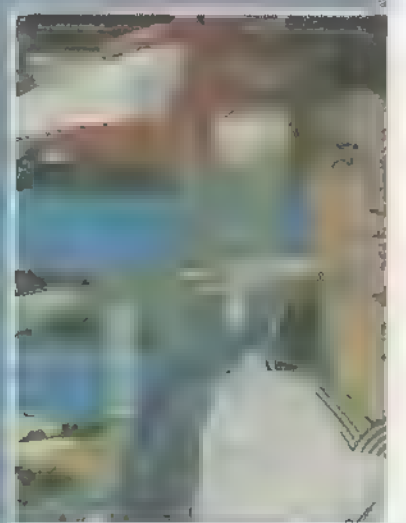
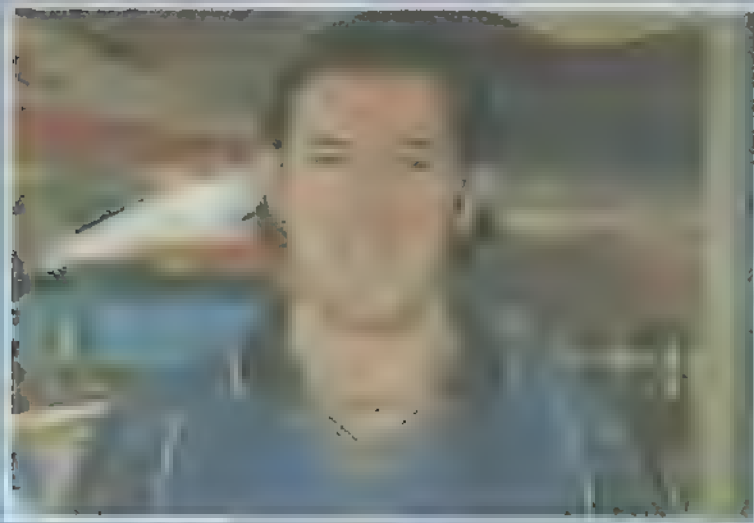
A: Get behind not only the soccer team but all Australian Olympians in Sydney, because we really need the support to achieve what we want to achieve, against the best athletes in the world.

Feature courtesy of Soccer Australia media department.
 Already profiled:
 Brett Emerton, Stephen Laybutt and Lucas Neill

"...it's a loop effect, the more I score, the more I'm inspired, then the more I score..."



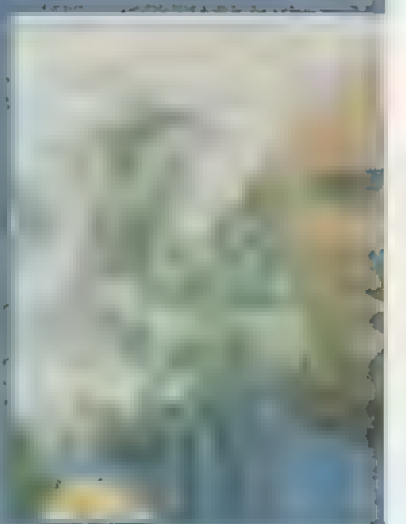
SYDNEY



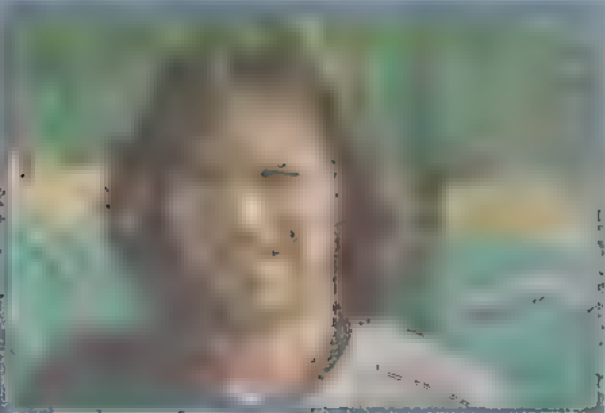
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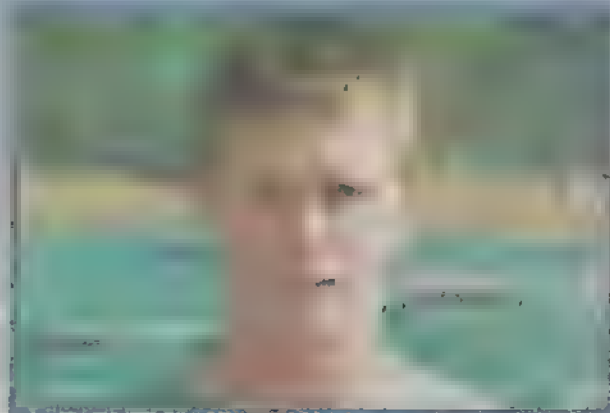
John Kyrilazopoulos



George Bo



Chris Kalantzis

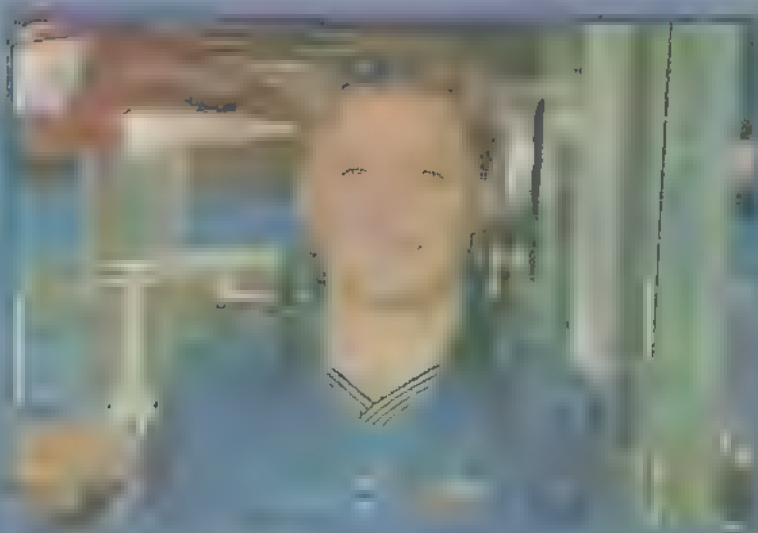


Lindsay



Norman Tome

OLYMPIC



Scott Guller



Peter Kahlir



Chris Miller



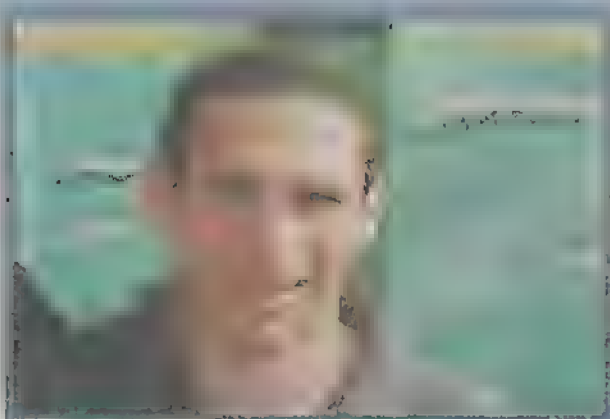
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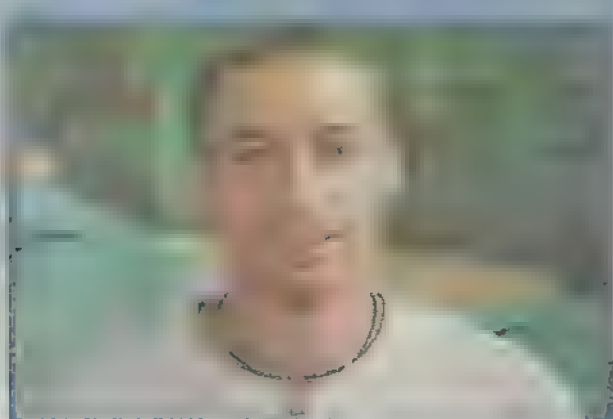
Sebastian Sinozic



Jim Kourtis



Gabriel Mendez



Ante Juric



Peter Zorbas

National Youth League

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 5)

Sunday 29 October

ACTAS2 Wolves Colts2
(Williams 35, own goal 74) (Bishop 10, own goal 50)

Saturday 30 October

Sydney United Colts0 Marconi Stallions Colts0
Northern Spirit1 Sydney Olympic2
(R Griffiths 78) (Carle 8, Tome 52)
Q.A.S.1 Parramatta Power2
(Miner 25) (Gatt 48, Angelucci 56)
Northern Spirit Colts2 NSWIS1
(Faria 22, Majurovski 89) (Martin 76)
A.I.S.6 Newcastle Breakers0
(Cvetanoski 8,
Demourtzidis 10, 65, 72,
Gulesserian 37, Vasilevski 41 pen)

Sunday 31 October

Sydney Olympic Academy v Sydney United and Marconi Stallions v Newcastle Breakers Colts postponed due to inclement weather

Bye — Wollongong Wolves

	P	W	D	L	■	A	Pts
A.I.S.	5	5	0	0	26	1	15
Parramatta Power	5	5	0	0	19	1	15
Sydney Olympic	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Q.A.S.	4	2	1	1	15	5	7
Northern Spirit Colts	4	2	1	1	■	3	7
Northern Spirit	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Wollongong Wolves	4	2	0	2	3	6	6
A.C.T.A.S.	4	1	2	1	7	11	5
N.S.W.I.S.	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Sydney United Colts	5	1	1	3	7	11	4
Marconi Stallions	2	1	0	1	2	6	3
Sydney Olympic Academy	3	1	0	2	7	13	3
Newcastle Breakers	5	1	0	4	1	9	3
Marconi Stallions Colts	3	0	1	2	0	8	1
Sydney United	2	0	1	1	0	9	1
Wollongong Wolves Colts	4	0	1	3	4	14	1
Newcastle Breakers Colts	4	0	0	4	3	11	0

Friday night saw the Wollongong Wolves Colts pick up their first point of the season away to the A.C.T.A.S. The visitors led after 10 minutes courtesy of a Chad Bishop strike.

Adam Williams equalised for the Academy after 35 minutes. After the break, a 50th minute own goal by Stephen Kemp put the Wolves Colts ahead for the second time in the match.

However, the visitors had to settle for a point after suffering a similar fate. An own goal by Tim Dimech after 74 minutes saw the match end at 2-2.

A double header at Christie Park on Saturday saw the Northern Spirit Colts host the N.S.W.I.S., whilst the Northern Spirit tackled Sydney Olympic in the latter match.

The Spirit Colts continue to impress this season with a fine victory over the more fancied Institute team. The 2-1 scoreline reflected the tightness of the contest. The home side took the lead when Tony Faria found the net after 22 minutes.

Tallan Martin scored after 76 minutes for the N.S.W.I.S. It seemed as if the teams would share the points but John Majurovski had other ideas.

The young striker struck only a minute before time to bag all three points for the Spirit Colts. The win lifts the victors into fifth place on the ladder.

The late game saw Sydney Olympic defeat the Northern Spirit by two goals to one. A freakish finish by Nick Carle after 6 minutes put the visitors ahead.

Olympic went further ahead after the break when Norman Tome scored after 52 minutes. Ryan Griffiths pulled one back for the Spirit in the 78th minute but Olympic hung on to record their third straight victory.

In Brisbane, the Parramatta Power maintained their 100% record with a come from behind win over the Q.A.S. Russell Miner scored for the fourth time this season after 25 minutes to put the home side ahead. The Queenslanders surrendered their lead when Patrick Gatt scored after 48 minutes. The Power then surged past the hosts when Jon Angelucci netted the winner after 56 minutes.

Another superb performance by the A.I.S. ensured that the current champions remain on top of the league ladder. The six-nil thumping of the Newcastle Breakers at the A.I.S. Soccer Field must have impressed the coaching staff led by former Soccerro, Steve O'Connor. The A.I.S. led four-nil at half-time.

Elias Demourtzidis bagged a hat-trick, to take his goal scoring tally to seven for the season. Johnny Cvetanoski, Kevo Gulesserian and Daniel Vasilevski, via the penalty spot, recorded singles.

Saturday also produced the only scoreless result in Round 5. The Sydney United Colts and Marconi Stallions Colts battled it out for 90

minutes without either side being able to break the deadlock.

Once again, Sydney's weather caused the postponement of matches. The Sydney Olympic Academy v Sydney United and the Marconi Stallions v Newcastle Breakers Colts clashes were washed out on Sunday. Both fixtures will be rescheduled.

ROUND 6

Friday 5 November 1999

Newcastle Breakers v Marconi Stallions
(Breakers Stadium - 5.15pm)

N.S.W.I.S. v A.I.S.

(Valentine Park - 7.00pm)

Saturday 6 November 1999

Sydney United v Sydney United Colts
(Sydney United Sports Centre - 4.00pm)

Sunday 7 November 1999

Sydney Olympic v Northern Spirit Colts
(Belmore Sports Ground - 4.00pm)

Wollongong Wolves v Northern Spirit
(Brandon Park - 4.00pm)

Marconi Stallions Colts v A.C.T.A.S.
(Marconi Stadium - 4.00pm)

Newcastle Breakers Colts v Sydney Olympic Academy
(Breakers Stadium - 5.00pm)

Wollongong Wolves Colts v Q.A.S.
(To be played on Friday 21 April 2000)

Bye - Parramatta Power

LEADING SCORERS

Elias Demourtzidis	A.I.S.	7
Russell Miner	Q.A.S.	5
Kevo Gulesserian	A.I.S.	5
Grant Last	A.I.S.	3
Daniel Vasilevski	A.I.S.	3
Daniel Kukucka	Parramatta Power	3
Patrick Gatt	Parramatta Power	3
Damian Pisano	Sydney Olympic	3

SOUTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 2)

Saturday 30 October 1999

Albury Wodonga1 Fawkner Blues1
(David Martin 86) (own goal 14)
Gippsland Falcons2 South Dandenong1
(Thomas Perry 82, 85) (Ibraimi 76pen)

Sunday 31 October 1999

Bulleen Inter2 Melb Knights Academy1
(Adam Curcija 5, Luigi Gullacci 58) (Hrvoje Matkovic 56)
Carlton4 South Melbourne1
(Angelo Mtsiopoulos 64, 90 Dusko Delic 22, Deniz Ekici 52) (Jovanco Novacevski 80)
Melbourne Knights9 Preston Lions1
(Jasmin Sehic 15,73pen, (Simon Petkovski 6)
Josip Loncaric 72,77, Ivan Gelemanovic 21,
Chris Tabak 57, Anthony Pelikan 44,
Jure Radosevic 40, Carmelo Impiombato 61)
VIS v Bye

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	2	2	0	0	17	3	6
Carlton	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
Bulleen Inter Kings	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Gippsland Falcons	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
VIS	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Fawkner Blues	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
South Dandenong	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Albury Wodonga	2	0	1	1	3	9	1
Melbourne Knights Academy	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
South Melbourne	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Preston Lions	2	0	0	2	1	14	0

ROUND 3

Saturday 6 November 1999

Albury Wodonga v Gippsland Falcons, (Alexandra Park, 4pm)

Preston Lions v Fawkner Blues, (Hosken Reserve, 4 pm)

Sunday 7 November 1999

South Melbourne v Melbourne Knights, (Bob Jane Stadium, 3.30 pm)

Melb Knights Academy v Carlton, (Knights Stadium, 4 pm)

Bulleen Inter v VIS, (Mahoneys Reserve, 4 pm)

South Dandenong v Bye

By Roy Hay

Carlton completed its second win in the Southern Division by four goals to one against South Melbourne in windy conditions on a sandy pitch at Hosken Reserve.

Carlton started fiercely with Steve Martin getting a yellow card in the second minute, but took the lead in 21 minutes.

Dusko Delic made the break from midfield and exchanged passes with Deniz Ekici before firing a grounder past Chris Jones.

Tass Psonis of South Melbourne created a couple of chances for his side, but both were spurned. Nick Tolios overhit a ball and followed through on his opponent earning another yellow card for Carlton, while Pat Kochohor had to be taken off with ligament damage.

Six minutes after the interval Ekici anticipated a long ball from the left and finished very coolly, then Angelo Mtsiopoulos pursued another pass through the defence and just nipped it past the keeper as he came out.

Former Carlton striker Jovanco Novacevski then split the defence with a typical surging run ending with a well placed shot beyond the reach of Adrian Cagalj.

There was just time for Mtsiopoulos to finish off a free kick from substitute Ace Stojcevski before the referee blew for full time. Carlton was always in control and South coach John Kennedy admitted before the game that his squad needed a few games under its belt before it will show its true ability.

Melbourne Knights had its second huge win, this time by nine goals to one against Preston Lions.

Yet the Lions scored first through Simon Petkovski after only six minutes, but the threat of an upset did not last long. Jasmin Sehic equalised after 15 minutes and Ivan Gelemanovic put the Knights in front in 21.

A goal by Jure Radosevic in 40 minutes and a penalty by Anthony Pelikan just before half-time meant a four-one lead to the home team. When Chris Tabak added a fifth in 57 and Carmelo Impiombato the sixth in 61 minutes the fight went out of the Preston youngsters and substitute Josip Loncaric added two goals on either side of another penalty this time converted by Sehic. Loncaric has now scored four goals in two appearances as substitute.

Bulleen Inter recorded its second victory in a close fought match with the Melbourne Knights Academy by two goals to one. Adam Curcija's strike in five minutes set Bulleen on its way, but a series of chances were

ignored and the Academy was always in contention.

Hrvoje Matkovic equalised for the Academy in 56 minutes but then defender Josef Damiano made a run from the back to set up Luigi Gullacci for the winner two minutes later.

Damiano and Berkan Sakaci were the pillars of the Bulleen defence. Matkovic put a free kick into the net for the Academy but unfortunately it was an indirect one and did not count. Zlatko Maglic, Daniel Piorkowski and keeper Matthew McCarthy were the Academy stars, with the keeper deserving a lot of praise for keeping the score down when Bulleen did threaten.

Gippsland Falcons left it very late before scraping home by two goals to one against South Dandenong at Mobil Stadium on Saturday.

All the goals came in the last fifteen minutes and it was South Dandenong which made the breakthrough from the penalty spot after 76 minutes. Thomas Perry scored twice for the Falcons in 82 and 85 minutes to snatch victory.

Albury Wodonga picked up its first point in a one-all draw at home to Fawkner Blues.

In very wet and heavy conditions, but on an excellent surface at Alexandra Park, Fawkner took the lead after 14 minutes. It was an own goal by the borderers after a good attack by the Blues.

The second half saw Albury Wodonga get into its stride and it gained a deserved equaliser through David Martin with four minutes left to play.

LEADING SCORERS

Angelo Mtsiopoulos	Carlton	4
Josip Loncaric	Melbourne Knights	4
Anthony Pelikan	Melbourne Knights	4
Carmelo Impiombato	Melbourne Knights	3
David Martin Albury	Wodonga	2
Adam Curcija	Bulleen	2
Thomas Perry	Gippsland Falcons	2
Jasmin Sehic	Melbourne Knights	2

MARSTON ENTERS CHAMPIONS HALL



NSW Sports Minister John Watkins presents the plaque to Joe Marston.

Former Soccerroo player and coach Joe Marston was recently inducted into the NSW Hall of Champions at the State Sports Centre, Homebush Bay.

NSW Minister for Sport John Watkins presented Marston and five other athletes with plaques to honour the occasion in front of 90 guests, including previous inductees, sports people, officials and family members.

The event, which was compared by former basketball champion Damien Keogh, coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Hall of Champions, and brought the number of inductees to 281, representing 43 sports.

Marston, a right back, played 200 matches for the then-leading English club Preston North End in the 1950s. In 1954, he became the first Australian to appear in an FA Cup final. Marston also played for

Australia 25 times.

The Hall of Champions is a sport museum and hall of fame which recognises outstanding achievements by NSW athletes who are counted among the nation's best.

Famous names, great moments and inspired performances are celebrated on the wall of fame.

The NSW Hall of Champions is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm and admission is free.

JAPANESE LINK FOR AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

The Richard Alagich Academy of Soccer was again a busy hive of Japanese activity recently in Sydney.

A group of 30 University players from Fukuoka flew into Sydney to attend a seven day coaching camp program as part of their preparation for the coming season in Japan.

Alagich has made several visits to Japan to do coaching camps and lectures.

His Australian Soccer Coaching Manual, Soccer: Winning Through Technique and

Tactics, endorsed world wide by FIFA, has been well received in Japan.

"When I first went there to coach, they were naive tactically," Alagich said. "But their enthusiasm to learn and commitment were unbelievable and it is already showing."

"The young Japanese soccer player is out there training five to six nights a week with two to three hour sessions."

"A lot of young Aussie players and coaches are complaining that three nights a week is too much. "We have the talent but until we

start to change our attitude to youth preparation we will never be a force in world soccer."

Alagich will again be hosting a group of players in January followed by 15 Japanese coaches arriving in March 2000 to spend five days studying his method.

It is a major step for soccer in Australia in developing a stronger relationship with Japanese soccer.

Australia's most popular camp program can hold its head high with its achievement and popularity with Japanese coaches and players.



The Japanese players and Head coach Mr Hata along with coaching staff Fred Wall, Fred Mesiti and Richard Alagich.



Matt Horsley: A Wollongong man through and through.

LOCAL JUNIOR DONE GOOD

By Otto Bader

Wollongong Wolves captain Matt Horsley is the the best known player among the juniors in the Illawarra district, not least because he is a local kid himself — from Balgownie.

Horsley is also the Wolves' development officer and his job is to foster soccer in the schools, promote the Wolves and invite all kids plus their parents to home matches at Brandon Park.

Horsley's enthusiasm and ambitions are definitely contagious and they hopefully infect his team-mates.

A successful team has brought supporters in Wollongong out of the woodwork.

Soccer camps are organised for the Christmas school holidays at Brandon Park, Helensburgh, Nowra and the Southern Highlands.

Horsley is in his 10th year with the Wolves. He began in the youth team after a successful run in the Illawarra Premier League with Balgownie.

Horsley made the senior Wolves team under then coach David Ratcliffe and has never looked back.



AUSSIES ABROAD

(Research by Binesh Mudaliar of Soccer Australia)

Twenty one year-old former Kingsway Olympic (Western Australia) player JAMIE TRANDOS has joined fellow Australians SCOTT O'DONELL and JOSEPH MARRAPODI at Singaporean first division club Tampines Rovers.

English First Division club Wolverhampton Wanderers are soon to make a decision on whether to extend goalkeeper STEVE MAUTONE'S time at Molineux.

Mautone's three-month contract with Wolves expires in early November.

LG Soccerroo STAN LAZARIDIS will reportedly resume action from a hamstring injury next week.

Stoke City's Perth-born midfielder DAVID OLDFIELD is set to undergo surgery after damaging a knee in a recent reserves game.

Lommel (Belgian first division) midfielder KRESIMIR MARUSIC is serving a three-match suspension which began last weekend.

The leading Aussie goalscorers around the world: Brian Bothwell (Brunei) 13, Mark Viduka (Celtic) 11, Alex Duric (Tanjong Pagar United) 11, Tony Popovic (Sanfrecce Hiroshima) 6, Harry Kewell (Leeds United) 5, Tim Cahill (Millwall) 5, Darren Stewart (Balestier Central) 5, Ernie Tapai (Home United) 5

Happy birthday to the following Australians playing in Europe: FRANK JURIC, who plays for Bayer Leverkusen in the German First Division and TONY SEKULIC who plays for FC Mainz in the German Second Division.

Juric and Sekulic turned 26 and 25 last Thursday and Saturday respectively.

JUNIOR SOCCER

QATAR JUNIORS READY FOR WORLD CUP

By Mark Stavroulakis

The national under-17 soccer team of the tiny Persian Gulf country of Qatar has been in Sydney for the past two weeks preparing for the World Under 17 Championships in New Zealand, beginning November 12.

Qatar have been based at the NSW Soccer Federation's Parklea Headquarters.

The Qatar coach Said Saad Al Mohanadi had some nice words to say about this Australian trip.

First of all Said mentioned that he was very happy with the way in which he and his players have been treated and has described this as "first class".

"The climate is of course very different to the one we are used to in Qatar," he said. "The heat is very extreme there and the hot conditions are what we play better in. Here in Australia we have discovered the colder more wetter climate as well, and this will definitely be a problem for us in the World Cup."

"Recently we played a friendly game against the NSW ITC and won 4-1, but discovered yet again that screw-in boots are a must if we are to have any say in getting into the finals."

"As soon as that friendly match ended,



The Qatar Under-17 squad.

I took my whole team to a sports store not far from here and they all bought screw-in shoes, just in case that moment of rain ever ceases to happen".

Not too many people know about soccer in Qatar, and Said explained the state in which it is in his country.

"In Qatar we have two divisions, the first division consists of nine teams, the

second consists of seven. There are many talents in Qatar, but I feel that in my current squad today, I know that many of these players in two to three years time will be playing somewhere abroad".

Said had many interesting words to say about his team and Australia's chances in the Under-17 World Cup.

"We have fared in a pretty open group

having Paraguay as our hardest obstacle," Said said. "I know however that we have a good strong side with many very good talents and semi final and final aspirations beckon."

"Australia has a very tough and strong side, but the group they have been put in is a really tough task to handle."

"With the likes of Brazil and Germany

in their group it will be very hard for them to over pass these teams."

"However I know that Australian teams play with a lot of pride and passion and that might help them through these games".

Qatar will be leaving on the 4th of November for the shores of New Zealand.

Ansett Australia Summer Series

ROUND 2

ACTAS CANBERRA ECLIPSE

(Dior Foxhill 15, Cindy Doye 37, Kim Channing 89)

3

NORTHERN NSW PRIDE

(Tracy Baker 50)

At Ainslie Football Club, Canberra

1

ACTAS Canberra Eclipse celebrated an upset 3-1 win last weekend in Canberra over Northern NSW Pride lifting them within touch of the pack, whilst all but ruining Pride's hopes of staying in contention for the upcoming grand final.

Without actually dominating proceedings, the difference for Eclipse was they were finally able to put the ball in the back of the net. Northern had their chances and kept Canberra keeper Amy Beattie quite busy.

Dior Foxhill was successful from the penalty spot in the 15th minute to give the home side the lead after being pushed inside the box. Eclipse doubled their lead late in the half against the run of play, Cindy Doyle unleashing a spectacular dipping strike from 35 metres which sailed in just under the crossbar.

The intensity lifted five minutes after the break after Northern pulled a goal back, Tracy Baker allowed three shots before the third beat the keeper. But with a minute to go, Canberra's Kim Channing put the game beyond doubt, beating the last defender to a long Beattie clearance upfield and coolly chipping the advancing goalie.

ACTAS Canberra Eclipse: Beattie, Foxhill, Munoz, Doyle, Borucinski, Pelle, D Hepperlin (Rawson), Karp, Staniforth (Madden), Channing, Kilpatrick.

Northern NSW Pride: Praszczalek, Powell, Alley, Ingles (Gill), Nutley (Stevens), McMunn, Randall, Neilson, Baker, King, Crawford.

QAS STING

(Jamara Maza 7, Olivia Hohnke 73, Lisa Dunne 90)

3

NSW SAPPHIRES

(Joanne Burgess 43)

At Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

1

QAS Sting scored the second upset of the day, a solid 3-1 victory over NSW Sapphires, the frontrunners' first loss of the season. The Sapphires still hold first position, but their long-held four-point lead has been slashed to just one.

The result also boosts the chances of a late Queensland charge into the grandfinal and rewarded the good sized crowd at the magnificent Suncorp Stadium.

QAS stung their opponents early, taking the lead after seven minutes, Jamara Maza winning out in a scramble and stabbing home from close range. NSW scored the equaliser two minutes before the break, Joanne Burgess successful with her strike.

The contest remained fairly even throughout, QAS keeper Claire Nichols making three fantastic saves to deny the favourites. The home side then regained the lead in the 73rd minute, Olivia Hohnke nailing her drive from the edge of the box. Sting's Lisa Dunne sealed the coveted victory in the dying stages with a clinical header to finish a cross from the left.

QAS Sting: Nichols, McShea, Gegenhuber (Blackwell), Garven, Tramacchi (Mitchell), Nolan (Thornton), Hohnke, Revell, Maza (Dawney), Dunne, Mann.

NSW Sapphires: Kell, Rockall, Parker, Gilbert, Graham (Peters), Watson, L Collins (Davies), Cavanagh, Klessattel, Carney (Poulton), Burgess.

SASI PIRATES

(Natalie Thomas 14)

1

VICTORIA VISION

At Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

0

SASI Pirates performed poorly against a determined Victoria Vision, but managed to still come away with the vital three points with a 1-0 win to now be within one point of the lead.

SASI's sole highlight in the scrappy, stop-start affair was their 14th minute goal, Natalie Thomas beating two defenders and finishing in great style from 15 metres.

SASI Pirates: Wirkus, Vozzo, Winn, Morris, Alagich (Gawlik), Stocco, Spagnoletti (Baker), Prince, Morrison (May), Thomas (Matto), Halpenny

Victoria Vision: n/a.

POINTS LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
NSW SAPPHIRES	7	5	1	1	16	6	10	16
SASI PIRATES	7	4	3	-	10	3	7	15
QAS STING	7	3	2	2	12	6	6	11
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	7	2	2	3	10	14	-4	8
ACTAS CANBERRA ECLIPSE	7	2	-	5	11	20	-9	6
VICTORIA VISION	7	-	2	5	5	15	-10	2

TOP GOALSCORERS

4	Heather GARRIOCK	NSW Sapphires
3	Kelly GOLEBIEWSKI	NSW Sapphires
3	Leigh TEREK	Victoria Vision
3	Michelle CARNEY	NSW Sapphires
3	Dior FOXHILL	ACTAS Canberra Eclipse
3	Joanne BURGESS	NSW Sapphires
3	Lisa DUNNE	QAS Sting

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JUNIOR SOCCER

HAVE YOUR PHOTO OR A PHOTO OF YOUR SOCCER TEAM PUBLISHED IN AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY. AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO SEND IN THEIR PHOTOS TOO. SEND PHOTOS TO THE EDITOR, AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY, PO BOX 155, MARRICKVILLE, NSW, 2204. OR E-MAIL PHOTOS IN JPEG FORMAT TO soccerweekly@hotmail.com

**All photos will be returned*



Abbotsford Junior Soccer Club under 9s "Space Jammers" reached the grand final this year, but unfortunately lost to Strathfield 2-1. The result was a surprise because Sydney-based Abbotsford beat Strathfield in the semi-finals.

FAMOUS PHOTOS

Have you had your photo taken with someone famous in soccer? Even if it happened years ago, you can have the photo published in ABSW. Send photos to the Editor, Australian and British Soccer Weekly.

P.O. Box 155, Marrickville NSW 2204. Or E-mail the photo in JPEG format to soccerweekly@hotmail.com



AC Milan fanatic Gaetano Melita pictured with his favourite team's former legend Daniele Massaro. The picture was taken during AC Milan's tour of Australia in 1993. Massaro, a striker, played for Italy in the 1994 World Cup finals.



Sydney Olympic youth team player Mark Stavroulakis pictured with his favourite National Soccer League player, South Melbourne ace defender Con Blasis.

SOCCER WOMAN

BY JANENE MAR

BRIGHT AND SHINY RETURN FOR SUNNI

Rejuvenated striker is thankful for second chance

Striker Sunni Hughes is back. Back creating and scoring goals for Australia. Back training with the Matildas at the AIS in Canberra. And everything's 'bright and shiny' for the 31-year-old.



Sunni Hughes: Aiming for the Olympics.

After almost a year away from the top flight, Hughes has returned with a new outlook on life and, in turn, a revitalised approach to her football.

A phone call from Newcastle on the eve of the Matildas' departure for the Oceania World Cup Qualifiers in October last year was to turn Hughes' life around. Upon hearing her mother had been diagnosed with a brain tumour, Sunni immediately headed north.

Mrs Hughes underwent surgery and then required 24 hour care. Doctors said she had only two to twelve months left. Today Mrs Hughes is much improved and doing 'quite well'.

"She was pretty stoic and strong throughout, whilst the rest of the family was falling apart," said Hughes of her mother.

"We hold doctors up as authority figures, but I've found now that I don't like them putting a time limit on mum's or anyone's life. It puts you in a frame of mind where you're scared, thinking 'this is it' when little things worry you. Mum's

to renew our relationship.

I'd see on telly the World Cup stuff but never at any point was I regretful. I was happy doing what I was doing and felt no ambivalence whatsoever."

Joyous at the extent of her mother's recovery after enduring such agonising periods during the peak of the illness, everything has now come together nicely for Hughes.

All roads suddenly led back to Canberra as soccer once again beckoned, and Hughes took a chance and relocated to the capital, ready to join in training for the 1 September restart at the AIS.

"I always kept my hopes up during that time off that maybe I'd get the chance again. I just thought if I'm meant to get another go, it'll happen. I maintained my fitness, but I didn't back on it quite happening this way.

"Mum got better, which was crucial to me giving it another go. Plus I spoke to Chris (Tanzey), and he wanted me to as well."

"I felt really positive," she said of trying her luck again with the side. "Plus with talking to Chris, he said things would be a bit different, and everything's been really positive and looking good. With Mum going well, everything's now bright and shiny — just falling into place nicely."

Back in amongst it alongside her old teammates, plus some new youngsters she'd barely even met, it was soon evident that Hughes hadn't lost that nous for goal.

Her sharp return to form has also helped lift Northern NSW Pride to new heights.

Before the month was out, her efforts were rewarded with inclusion back into the OAP Squad.

"The time away has made me relax more in a game. When someone close to you's life is at stake, it helps you see the big picture.

"It's taken the pressure off. There used to be little things that worried me during a game, but now it doesn't matter. It's given me a new appreciation of life. I just wanted to come back and enjoy the game."

Although she has the Olympics well within her sights, Hughes is not one to be carried away with it all.

Characteristic of the 'Sunni' personality, Hughes prefers not to focus so much on hard and fast goals, but more to ride the wave.

Taking enjoyment from the process itself is just as important, a concept equally advocated by Tanzey.

"I'm really one to just go with the flow — enjoy the moment, and that's always what I've tried to do, although it's a bit easier now. Mainly it's just one day at a time, setting goals within each day."

Working under new National Coach Tanzey, Hughes is lifted by the new aura of excitement that now exists around the program.

The highly experienced athlete who has played professionally in Japan and Denmark can see good things for Australia's future.

"I can't say enough about Tanz — you notice such a passion. The way he does things lifts everyone. He doesn't settle for second best or half mea-

sures, and that's what he gets — the best out of the players. It's full on and intense, pushing us harder, which I prefer.

"The way he wants us to play works more as a unit, more structured. He helps you attain your goals through the guidelines of what he expects. The picture is much more clear in a game sense.

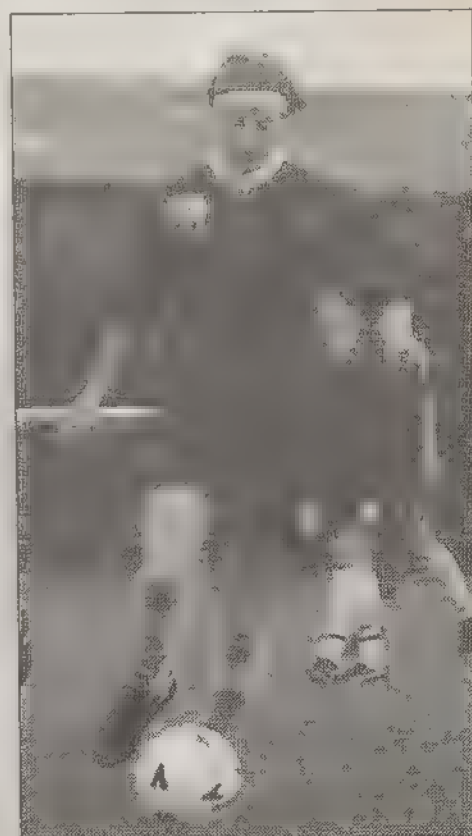
"I think I'm playing a bit better than before. I'm just more relaxed, and Chris' coaching approach encourages imagination on the field within those guidelines. I've still got to hone things a bit, and with football there's always, always things to improve."

Her selection for the current China Tour finally sees her returning to the international arena, the new Sunni, back wearing the green and gold.

"I'm really looking forward to it," she said on the eve of the team's departure. "It doesn't faze me, I'm more excited than anything. With quality opposition, it's all on a platter for us. We should make the most of it, not be intimidated, take it by the reins and enjoy it. Play our hearts out."

"We'll be going there wanting to perform really well the things we've been working on at training. It's experimental at this stage, but once we combine and it starts to flow, it will become progressively easier.

"Chris' philosophy will become our game and we'll perform well as a unit. At the moment we understand it at different levels and we just need to get the links together. The things we're working on with Tanz are basically simple things but will help us to play a more complicated game."



Sunni Hughes: 20 international goals.

FACT FILE SUNNI HUGHES

Date of Birth: 9 June 1968 in

Newcastle, NSW

Position: Striker

International Caps: 45

International Goals: 20

National League Team: Northern NSW

Pride

Previous Clubs: Matsushita Panasonic

Bambina (Japan), Fortuna Hjørring

(Denmark), Adamstown Rosebuds,

Toronto Awaba

Age Started Soccer: Five

International Debut: v New Zealand,

3rd Oceania Cup in Brisbane,

March 1989

First International Goal: v Japan,

Prima Cup in Japan, Dec 1989

proved them wrong."

That year's absence from soccer not only included the Qualifiers, but the World Cup itself. At the time she left, Hughes was Australia's all-time highest goalscorer (since overtaken by Cheryl Salisbury early this year), and fourth highest capped player. Overseas exponents at USA '99 asked after her whereabouts.

Hughes had only returned to Australia from Japanese L-League club Matsushita Panasonic Bambina three months previous to win her place back in the team.

Yet missing out on a chance to compete at her second World Cup was never an issue for Hughes. She looks back on that period with her mother as something precious.

"I've absolutely no regrets of that time. My time spent with Mum was incredible. I'd been away in Japan for four years, so that was really the silver lining — we were able

"I always kept my hopes up during that time off that maybe I'd get the chance again".



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WORLD

PREMIER LEAGUE (ENGLAND)

**SUNDERLAND 2
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1**

Republic of Ireland striker Niall Quinn grabbed two goals as Sunderland beat Spurs 2-1 to go third in the league.

A superb volley into the top corner saw him bag his first in the 10th minute and another volley in the 21st minute set up victory for the hosts.

Steffen Iversen pulled one back for Tottenham just after the hour mark but Sunderland held on for a deserved victory.

COVENTRY 4 WATFORD 0

Watford opened the brighter at Coventry but it was the hosts who took the lead in the 17th minute through Robbie Keane when the Irish teenager volleyed in for his eighth goal of the season.

Stephen Froggatt clipped in for 2-0 after skipping past two defenders in the penalty area just after the half hour.

Moroccan international Mustapha Hadji slammed in a third just minutes after the re-start and Gary McAllister's penalty made it 4-0 as injury-hit Watford folded.

ARSENAL 0 NEWCASTLE 0

Arsenal and Newcastle ground out a 0-0 draw in a largely uneventful clash at Highbury.

Dutch duo Dennis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars came on as second half substitutes but made little impact as Bobby Robson's men held on for their first away point of the season.

DERBY COUNTY 3 CHELSEA 1

Deon Burton stunned Chelsea in the seventh minute, smashing a shot low and left of the 'keeper into the net to give Derby, second bottom at the start, the lead.

But the advantage lasted just three minutes as Frank Leboeuf fired in an equaliser.

Rory Delap swerved in a spectacular goal with 10 minutes left then finished off Chelsea with an even better 30-metre effort two minutes from time.

LEEDS UNITED 1 WEST HAM 0

Leeds dominated the first half but a combination of sloppy finishing and goalkeeping heroics from Shaka Hislop kept the sides level at half-time.

A spell of pressure from Leeds at the start of the second half paid off when Ian Harte hit an unstoppable shot from the edge of the area for the opener.

Nigel Martyn needed to be at his very best to keep out a Frank Lampard free-kick as West Ham began to threaten towards the end.

LEICESTER 3 SHEFFIELD 0

Gerry Taggart gave Leicester the lead with a thumping header after Steve Guppy's free-kick was headed across goal in the 24th minute. Twelve minutes later Taggart grabbed his second.

Tony Cottee made it 3-0 with a header just before the hour.

MAN UNITED 3 ASTON VILLA 0

Both sides made a lively start, Benito Carbone rattling United's bar in the eighth minute.

But it was United who drew first blood, Paul Scholes side-footing a David Beckham cross home on the half-hour.

The hosts doubled their lead on the stroke of half-time as Beckham rolled the ball back from the byline and Andy Cole smashed it in.

Roy Keane made it 3-0 in the 65th minute with a shot from the edge of the area as Villa began to fade.

'BORO 2 EVERTON 1

Kevin Campbell gave the visitors the lead in the third minute when a corner bobbed between defenders' legs and the striker smacked the ball home from the edge of the goalmouth. German Christian Ziege soon showed how lethal he is in a dead-ball situation as he smashed a free kick home for the equaliser in the 15th minute.

Boro nosed ahead in the 58th minute when Brian Deane headed in a Phil Stamp cross and held on for the three points.

WIMBLEDON 1 SOUTHAMPTON 1

Marians Pahars put Southampton ahead in the 68th minute, tucking a Stuart Ripley cross past Neil Sullivan in the Wimbledon goal.

Southampton looked to have done enough to win but Marcus Gayle gave Wimbledon a share of the



Paul Scholes: Drew first blood for United.

points at the very end when he knocked in John Hartson's shot which had thundered off the woodwork.

SERIE A (ITALY)

JUVENTUS 1 PIACENZA 0

Juventus maintained their 100 percent record against Piacenza at the Delle Alpi thanks to Alessandro Del Piero's 76th minute penalty.

But not before a combination of woodwork and a goal-line clearance from Pietro Vierchowod had looked like giving the visitors a point.

LECCE 0 PERUGIA 1

Lecce finally surrendered their unbeaten home record to Perugia — a side who have not won away since May.

Former Lecce player Renato Olive gratefully side-footed in Japanese Hidetoshi Nakata's cross from the by-line for the 69th minute decider.

PARMA 2 BARI 1

Parma laid the foundations for their third victory in four starts inside 29 minutes. In the sixth, Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro headed home a corner for only his fourth goal in 183 Serie A matches.

In the 29th minute, Marco Di Vaio's shot beat goalkeeper Francesco Mancini and bounced into the net off the unlucky Duccio Innocenti. Innocenti deservedly pulled back a goal for Bari with a fiercely struck 82nd minute free kick.

AS ROMA 2 CAGLIARI 2

Roma twice took the lead through Vincenzo Montella and Brazilian defender Antonio Zago. Luis Oliviera made it 1-1 but the Belgian's second half dismissal appeared to swing the match toward Roma.

But Roma goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli conceded an 85th minute penalty which Cameroon striker Patrick Mboma converted.

UDINESE 3 REGGINA 2

Udinese's Paolo Poggi converted Stefano Fiore's inviting cross only for Sierra Leone striker Mohamed Kallon to level with his third goal in six matches.

Fiore restored the home side's lead with a superb 73rd minute free kick. Poggi's 80th minute second looked to have put the match beyond Reggina, but Davide Possanzini's 87th minute effort left Udinese to survive a tense finale.

VERONA 0 AC MILAN 0

Verona's Brazilian striker Adailton squandered the best chance of the match, shooting wide after a dreadful defensive error from Milan's French defender Bruno N'Gotty.

FIorentina 1 TORINO 1

Gabriel Batistuta, hero of Fiorentina's 1-0 win over Arsenal at Wembley last week, turned villain when he scooped a 55th minute penalty over the bar. The Argentine also hit the bar and the post before Vincenzo Scommese put the visitors in front in the 80th minute.

But Abel Balbo spared his compatriot's blushes by heading a deserved equaliser two minutes from time.

INTER MILAN 1 LAZIO 1

Giuseppe Pancaro's 90th minute goal — his second in successive matches — saved Lazio from their first defeat of the season and their first in this fixture since 1993.

Until then, Inter had dominated and had numerous chances to put the match beyond Lazio's reach after Ivan Zamorano's 36th minute opener.

VENEZIA 0 BOLOGNA 1

Manager Francesco Guidolin's debut on the Bologna bench brought his side their first away win since December 1998 — courtesy of a large slice of good fortune.

First, Fabio Bilica headed into his own net in the 12th minute. Then Filippo Maniero squandered his side's best chance of an equaliser by missing a 27th minute penalty.



Fiorentina's Gabriel Batistuta: Missed a penalty.



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Q-indicates already qualified

GROUP A

TUESDAY, SEPT. 14

Bayer Leverkusen	1	Lazio	1
Dynamo Kiev	1	Maribor	1

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22

Maribor	0	Bayer Leverkusen	2
Lazio	2	Dynamo Kiev	1

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29

Lazio	4	Maribor	0
Bayer Leverkusen	1	Dynamo Kiev	1

TUESDAY, OCT. 19

Maribor	0	Lazio	4
Dynamo Kiev	4	Bayer Leverkusen	2

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27

Lazio	1	Bayer Leverkusen	1
Maribor Teatonic	1	Dynamo Kiev	2

TUESDAY, NOV. 2

Bayer Leverkusen v Maribor
Dynamo Kiev v Lazio

Table

Q-Lazio	5	3	2	0	12	3	11
Dynamo Kiev	5	2	1	2	8	7	7
Bayer Leverkusen	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
Maribor Teatonic	5	1	0	4	2	12	3

GROUP B

TUESDAY, SEPT. 14

AIK Stockholm	1	Barcelona	2
Florentina	0	Arsenal	0

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22

Arsenal	3	AIK Stockholm	1
Barcelona	4	Florentina	2

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29

Barcelona	1	Arsenal	1
AIK Stockholm	0	Florentina	0

TUESDAY, OCT. 19

Arsenal	2	Barcelona	4
Florentina	3	AIK Stockholm	0

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27

Barcelona	5	AIK Stockholm	0
Arsenal	0	Florentina	1

TUESDAY, NOV. 2

AIK Stockholm v Arsenal
Florentina v Barcelona

Table

Q-Barcelona	5	4	1	0	16	6	13
Q-Florentina	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Arsenal	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
AIK Stockholm	5	0	1	4	2	13	1

GROUP C

TUESDAY, SEPT. 14

Boavista	0	Rosenborg	3
Feyenoord	1	B. Dortmund	1

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22

B. Dortmund	3	Boavista	1
Rosenborg	2	Feyenoord	2

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29

Rosenborg	2	B. Dortmund	2
Boavista	1	Feyenoord	1

TUESDAY, OCT. 19

B. Dortmund	0	Rosenborg	3
Feyenoord	1	Boavista	1

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27

Rosenborg	2	Boavista	0
B. Dortmund	1	Feyenoord	1

TUESDAY, NOV. 2

Boavista v Borussia Dortmund
Feyenoord v Rosenborg

Table

Q-Rosenborg	5	3	2	0	12	4	11
Borussia Dortmund	5	1	3	1	7	8	6
Feyenoord	5	0	5	0	6	6	5
Boavista	5	0	2	3	3	10	2

GROUP D

TUESDAY, SEPT. 14

Manchester Utd	0	Croatia Zagreb	0
Marseille	2	Sturm Graz	0

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22

Sturm Graz	0	Manchester Utd	3
Croatia Zagreb	1	Marseille	2

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29

Croatia Zagreb	3	Sturm Graz	0
Manchester Utd	2	Marseille	1

TUESDAY, OCT. 19

Sturm Graz	1	Croatia Zagreb	0
Marseille	1	Manchester Utd	0

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27

Croatia Zagreb	1	Manchester Utd	2
Sturm Graz	3	Marseille	2

TUESDAY, NOV. 2

Manchester Utd v Sturm Graz
Marseille v Croatia Zagreb

Table

Q-Manchester Utd	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Q-Olym Marseille	5	3	0	2	8	6	9
Sturm Graz	5	2	0	3	4	10	6
Croatia Zagreb	5	1	1	3	5	5	4

GROUP E

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 15

Olympiakos	3	Real Madrid	3
Molde	0	FC Porto	1

TUESDAY, SEPT. 21

FC Porto	2	Olympiakos	0
Real Madrid	4	Molde	1

TUESDAY, SEPT. 28

Real Madrid	3	FC Porto	1
Olympiakos	3	Molde	1

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20

FC Porto	2	Real Madrid	1
Molde	3	Olympiakos	2

TUESDAY, OCT. 26

Real Madrid	3	Olympiakos	0
FC Porto	3	Molde	1

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3

Olympiakos v FC Porto
Molde v Real Madrid

Table

Q-FC Porto	5	4	0	1	9	5	12
Q-Real Madrid	5	3	1	1	14	7	10
Olympiakos	5	1	1	3	8	12	4
Molde	5	1	0	4	6	13	3

GROUP F

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 15

Bayern Munich	2	PSV Eindhoven	1
Valencia	2	Rangers	0

TUESDAY, SEPT. 21

Rangers	1	Bayern Munich	1
PSV Eindhoven	1	Valencia	1

TUESDAY, SEPT. 28

PSV Eindhoven	0	Rangers	1
Bayern Munich	1	Valencia	1

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20

Rangers	4	PSV Eindhoven	1
Valencia	1	Bayern Munich	1

TUESDAY, OCT. 26

PSV Eindhoven	2	Bayern Munich	1
Rangers	1	Valencia	2

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3

Bayern Munich v Rangers
Valencia v PSV Eindhoven

Table

Q-Valencia	5	2	3	0	7	4	9
Rangers	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Bayern Munich	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
PSV Eindhoven	5	1	1	3	5	9	4

GROUP G

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 15

Sparta Prague	0	Bordeaux	0
Willem II	1	Spartak Moscow	3

TUESDAY, SEPT. 21

Spartak Moscow	1	Sparta Prague	1
Bordeaux	3	Willem II	2

TUESDAY, SEPT. 28

Bordeaux	2	Spartak Moscow	1
Sparta Prague	4	Willem II	0

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20

Spartak Moscow	1	Bordeaux	2
Willem II	3	Sparta Prague	4

TUESDAY, OCT. 26

Spartak Moscow	1	Willem II	1
Bordeaux	0	Sparta Prague	0

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3

Sparta Prague v Spartak Moscow
Willem II v Bordeaux

Table

Q-Bordeaux	5	3	2	0	7	4	11
Q-Sparta Prague	5	2	3	0	9	4	9
Spartak Moscow	5	1	2	2	7	7	5
Willem II Tilburg	5	0	1	4	7	15	1

GROUP H

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 15

Chelsea	0	AC Milan	0
Galatasaray	2	Hertha Berlin	2

TUESDAY, SEPT. 21

Hertha Berlin	2	Chelsea	1
AC Milan	2	Galatasaray	1

TUESDAY, SEPT. 28

AC Milan	1	Hertha Berlin	1
Chelsea	1	Galatasaray	0

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20

Hertha Berlin	1	AC Milan	0
Galatasaray	0	Chelsea	5

TUESDAY, OCT. 26

AC Milan	1	Chelsea	1
Hertha Berlin	1	Galatasaray	4

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3

Chelsea v Hertha Berlin
Galatasaray v AC Milan

Table

Hertha Berlin	5	2	2	1	7	8	8
Chelsea	5	2	2	1	8	3	8
AC Milan	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Galatasaray	5	1	1	3	7	11	4

SECOND ROUND

Four Groups of Four
November 24, December 8, March 1,
March 8, March 15, March 22

QUARTER FINALS

FIRST LEG — April 5
SECOND LEG — April 19

SEMI-FINALS

FIRST LEG — May 3
SECOND LEG — May 10

FINAL

Wednesday, May 24
At TBA

FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until November 17)

1	Brazil	69	Cyprus	137	Libya
2	Czech Republic	70	Mali	138	St Vincent/Gr
3	France	71	Guatemala	139	Ethiopia
4	Spain	72	Estonia	140	Hong Kong
5	Germany	73	Burkina Faso	141=	Solomon Islands
6	Croatia	74	AUSTRALIA	142=	San Marino
7	Norway	75	Honduras	143	Panama
8=	Argentina	76=	Bosnia-Herzegovina	144	Sri Lanka
8=	Romania	76=	Nigeria	145=	Dominica
10=	Italy	78=	Northern Ireland	145=	Saint Lucia
10=	Mexico	78=	Cuba	147	Andorra
12	England	80	Uzbekistan	148=	Antigua & Barbuda
13	Portugal	81	Algeria	148=	Bangladesh
14	Sweden	82	Canada	150=	Gambia
15	Yugoslavia	83	Senegal	150=	Lesotho
16	Netherlands	84=	Albania	152=	Dominican Rep.
17	Denmark	84=	Namibia	152=	Laos
18	Paraguay	86	Gabon	154	Yemen
19	Russia	87	Armenia	155	Mauritania
20	Scotland	88	Guinea	156	Niger
21	Slovakia	89	Qatar	157	Rwanda
22	United States	90	Togo	158	Cayman Islands
23=	Chile	91	Wales	159	Maldives
23=	Ukraine	92	Oman	160=	Kyrgyzstan
25=	Austria	93	El Salvador	160=	Sunnam
25=	Colombia	93	Iraq	162	British Virgin Is.
27	Israel	95	Moldova	163=	Bermuda
28	Morocco	96	Belarus	163=	Botswana
29	South Africa	97	Mozambique	165	Nepal
30=	Greece	98	Azerbaijan	166	Korea DPR
30=	Poland	99	New Zealand	167	Netherlands Ant.
32=	Belgium	100	Indonesia	168	Eritrea
32=	Tunisia	101=	Liberia	169	Palestine
34	Zambia	101=	Kenya	170	Guyana
35	Republic of Ireland	101=	Singapore	171=	Cambodia
36	Bulgaria	104	Haiti	171=	Guinea-Bissau
37	Turkey	105	Congo	173	Chinese Taipei
38=	Egypt	106	Vietnam	174	Macao
38=	Saudi Arabia	107	Syria	175	Cape Verde Islands
40	Korea Republic	108	Lebanon	176	Tonga
41	Trinidad & Tobago	109	Uganda	177	Samoa
42	Uruguay	110	Venezuela	178=	Cook Islands
43	Peru	111	Faroe Islands	178=	Papua New Guinea
44	Jamaica	112	Malawi	180	Philippines
45	Lithuania	113	Barbados	181	Pakistan
46	Hungary	114	India	182	Vanuatu
47=	Iceland	115	Malaysia	183	Puerto Rico
47=	Iran	116	Jordan	184	Brunei Darussalam
49=	Ivory Coast	117	Kazakhstan	185	Chad
49=	Switzerland	118	Sierra Leone	186=	Aruba
51	Japan	119	Mauritius	186=	Bahamas
52=	Finland	120	Malta	188=	Belize
52=	Slovenia	121	Grenada	188=	Seychelles
54	Ghana	122	Luxembourg	190	Nicaragua
55	Angola	123	Tanzania	191	US Virgin Islands
56	Cameroon	124	Bahrain	192	Djibouti
57	Bolivia	125	Turkmenistan	193	Turks & Caicos Is.
58	Kuwait	126	Myanmar	194=	Equatorial Guinea
59	China PR	127	Sudan	194=	Sao Tome & Principe
60	Congo DR (Zaire)	128	Liechtenstein	196	Somalia
61	Ecuador	129	Swaziland	197	Central African Rep.
62	Georgia	130	Tajikistan	198=	Mongolia
63	United Arab Emirates	131	Fiji	198=	American Samoa
64=	FYR Macedonia	132	Burundi	200	Guam
64=	Latvia	133	Madagascar	201	Anguilla
66	Thailand	134	Tahiti	201	Montserrat
67	Costa Rica	135	Benin		
68	Zimbabwe	136	St Kitts & Nevis		

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.

TOP COACH'S SON DIES

The son of Piacenza and former Inter Milan coach Luigi Simoni died last week of injuries sustained in a motorbike crash, Piacenza said.

Adriano Simoni, 33, had been in a coma in a Bologna hospital since the accident on October 14.

His father, who arrived at Serie A strugglers Piacenza in the close season after being sacked by Inter last year, missed the October 24 league match against Fiorentina to be with Adriano.

Piacenza won 2-0 and the players dedicated their victory to their coach and his son.



Luigi Simoni: Family tragedy.

OWEN WILL BE FIT FOR PLAY-OFF



Michael Owen

Injured England striker Michael Owen said last week he would be fit for this month's European championship play-off against Scotland.

Owen, who limped off with a hamstring strain during Liverpool's Premier League match at Southampton on October 24, said: "I will be fine for England. There's no doubt in my mind."

"I had something like this last season and was out for only 10 days."

Owen said he had previously had problems with his right hamstring but on Saturday "felt a twinge in my left".

Scotland host England in the first leg of the play-off on November 13 with the return leg four days later.



BAYERN BOSS SLAMS CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

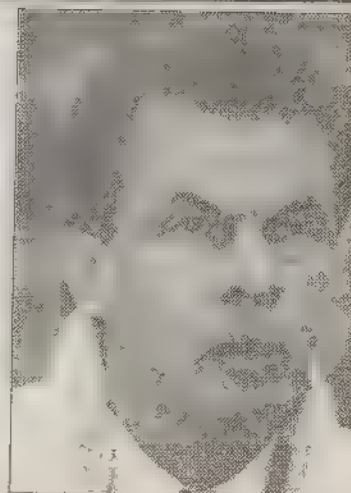
Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld criticised the expanded Champions League format last week and said the increased number of games was stretching players beyond their limits.

"I believe football suffers when we have too many games," Hitzfeld was quoted as saying by Stern magazine. "We shouldn't have the Champions League every week, also from the fans' perspective."

In the interview released last Thursday, Hitzfeld said it would be better if matches were scheduled every second week.

"The players are only human and it is too simplistic to say they can make a few hundred thousand [German] marks more if they run quicker and further."

"There is an absolute physical limit."



Ottmar Hitzfeld: Champions League critic.



UEFA
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

SYDNEY 2000 QUALIFYING UPDATE

Europe (Four Quality)

First Round

Group 1

Italy	8	7	0	1	20	7	22
Switzerland	8	4	2	2	8	4	14
Denmark	8	3	4	1	11	13	10
Belarus	8	2	5	1	5	12	7
Wales	8	0	5	3	6	14	3

Group 2

Greece	10	7	1	2	32	10	23
Norway	10	7	2	1	21	8	22
Georgia	10	2	3	5	11	13	11
Latvia	10	2	5	3	8	19	9
Slovenia	10	1	4	5	11	20	8
Albania	10	1	5	4	8	21	7

Group 3

Turkey	8	4	0	4	11	4	16
Germany	8	4	3	1	9	7	13
Finland	8	3	1	4	9	7	13
N Ireland	8	1	4	3	5	9	6
Moldova	8	0	4	4	3	10	4

Group 4

France	8	6	1	1	18	4	19
Russia	8	6	2	0	17	5	18
Ukraine	8	3	3	2	16	12	11
Iceland	8	2	6	0	9	18	6
Armenia	8	1	6	1	6	27	4

Group 5

England	8	7	1	0	23	3	21
Poland	8	5	1	2	21	12	17
Bulgaria	8	4	2	2	17	9	14
Sweden	8	2	6	0	7	15	6
Luxembourg	8	0	8	0	0	29	0

Group 6

Spain	8	7	0	1	21	5	22
Netherlands	8	6	2	0	17	8	18
Israel	8	2	4	2	6	13	8
Cyprus	8	1	4	3	7	18	6
Austria	8	1	7	0	8	15	3

Group 7

Slovakia	8	5	1	2	12	6	17
Portugal	8	5	2	1	17	6	17
Romania	8	3	2	3	10	8	12
Hungary	8	2	6	0	12	16	6
Azerbaijan	8	1	6	1	5	20	4

Group 8

Croatia	8	6	0	2	25	7	20
Yugoslavia	8	5	1	2	29	10	17
Ireland	8	4	2	2	13	12	14
Malta	8	1	7	0	8	23	3
Macedonia	8	1	7	0	2	25	3

Group 9

Belgium	10	8	1	1	31	9	25
Czech Republic	10	8	1	1	17	5	25
Lithuania	10	5	4	1	14	10	16
Scotland	10	4	4	2	18	12	14
Bosnia-H	10	2	7	1	11	24	7
Estonia	10	0	10	0	4	35	0

Second Round

Home		Return
14/11/99	Portugal v Croatia	18/11/99
14/11/99	Czech Rep. v Greece	18/11/99
14/11/99	Poland v Turkey	18/11/99
14/11/99	Netherlands v Belgium	18/11/99
14/11/99	Norway v Spain	18/11/99
14/11/99	Yugoslavia v England	18/11/99
14/11/99	Russia v Slovakia	18/11/99
14/11/99	France v Italy	18/11/99

AFRICA (Three Quality)

(fourth team to play Oceania winner)

GROUP A

	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Zimbabwe	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Nigeria	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Angola	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
Uganda	1	0	1	0	0	3	0

29/10/99	Uganda 0 Zimbabwe 3	Nigeria 2 Angola 2
02/11/99	Angola v Uganda. Zimbabwe v Nigeria	
02/11/99	Uganda v Nigeria. Zimbabwe v Angola	
25/02/00	Nigeria v Uganda. Angola v Zimbabwe	
10/03/00	Zimbabwe v Uganda. Angola v Nigeria	
10/03/00	Nigeria vs Zimbabwe	

GROUP B

	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Cameroon	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Ghana	1	0	0	1	2	2	1
South Africa	1	0	0	1	2	2	1
Guinea	1	0	1	0	0	3	0

30/10/99	Ghana 2 S Africa 2	Guinea 0 Cameroon 3
02/12/99	Cameroon v Ghana	S Africa v Guinea
26/02/00	Ghana vs Guinea. S Africa v Cameroon	
03/11/00	Guinea v Ghana. Cameroon v S Africa	
25/03/00	South Africa v Ghana. Cameroon v Guinea	
	Ghana v Cameroon. Guinea v S Africa	

GROUP C

	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Morocco	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Tunisia	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Ivory Coast	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Egypt	1	0	1	0	0	1	0

31/10/99	Morocco 1 Egypt 0	Tunisia 1 Ivory Cst 1
13/02/00	Egypt v Tunisia. Ivory Coast v Morocco	
27/02/00	Tunisia vs Morocco. Ivory Coast v Egypt	
27/02/00	Morocco vs Tunisia. Egypt v Ivory Coast	
12/03/00	Ivory Coast v Tunisia. Egypt v Morocco	
26/03/00	Tunisia v Egypt. Morocco v Ivory Coast	

CONCACAF (Two Quality)

Preliminary Round

Central America

El Salvador 1 Panama 2
Panama 1 El Salvador 1
Nicaragua 0 Honduras 6
Honduras 4 Nicaragua 2
Belize 1 Guatemala 3
Guatemala 6 Belize 1

Caribbean

St Vincent 1 Trinidad & Tobago 5
Trinidad & Tobago 4 St Vincent 0
St Lucia 2 Barbados 1
Barbados 4 St Lucia 1
Dominica 1 St Kitts & Nevis
St Kitts & Nevis 2 Dominica 0
Guyana 4 Surinam 1
Surinam 3 Guyana 4
Aruba 0 Netherlands Antilles 6
Haiti 3 Dominican Republic 2
Dominican Republic 1 Haiti 0
St Kitts 1 Jamaica 3
Guyana 1 Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles 0 Guyana 0
Dominican 0 Republic 0 Cuba 4
Cuba 4 Dominican Republic 0
Trinidad & Tobago 4 Barbados 1
Barbados 2 Trinidad & Tobago 2

Bermuda

08/03/2000
10/03/2000
12/03/2000

Cuba/ Dominican

Dominican/Cuba vs Panama
Panama vs Bermuda
Bermuda vs Dominican/Cuba

Jamaica Costa Rica

22/03/00	Mexico v Honduras
	Jamaica v Costa Rica
24/03/00	Mexico v Jamaica.
	Costa Rica v Honduras
26/03/00	Mexico v Costa Rica.
	Jamaica v Honduras

Honduras Mexico

GROUP C

Neth. Antilles Trinidad & Tobago

05/04/00	Can v Trd/Tbg.
	N. Antilles v Guatemala
07/04/00	Can v N. Antilles.
	Trd/Tgo v Guatemala
04/09/00	Can v Guatemala.
	N. Antilles v Trd/Tgo

Guatemala Canada

South America (Two Quality)

GROUP A

Ecuador Venezuela Chile

19/01/00	Colombia v Ecuador
	Brazil v Chile
21/01/00	Chile v Ecuador.
	Colombia v Venezuela
23/01/00	Chile v Venezuela.
	Brazil v Ecuador
26/01/00	Colombia v Chile
	Brazil v Venezuela
30/01/00	Ecuador v Venezuela.
	Brazil v Colombia

Colombia Brazil

Paraguay Peru Bolivia

18/01/00	Uruguay v Peru
	Argentina v Paraguay
20/01/00	Paraguay v Bolivia.
	Argentina v Peru
22/01/00	Paraguay v Peru.
	Uruguay v Bolivia
25/01/00	Uruguay v Paraguay.
	Argentina v Bolivia
29/01/00	Peru v Bolivia.
	Argentina v Uruguay

Argentina Uruguay

Asia (Three Quality)

First Round

GROUP 1

Qatar*	4	3	0	1	9	2	10
United Arab Emirates	4	2	1	1	13	4	7
Yemen	4	0	4	0	1	17	0

GROUP 2

Kuwait*	4	3	0	1	10	6	10
Oman	4	1	2	1	5	10	4
Syria	4	1	3	0	8	7	3

GROUP 3

Saudi Arabia*	4	2	0	2	9	5	8
Iraq	4	1	1	2	7	10	5
Jordan	4	1	3	0	9	10	3

GROUP 4

Bahrain*	4	3	1	0	7	3	9
Lebanon	4	1	2	1	4	5	4
Iran	4	1	2	1	3	6	4

GROUP 5

Kazakhstan*	8	5	1	2	20	9	17
Uzbekistan	8	5	2	1	15	7	16
Turkmenistan	8	4	3	1	17	14	13
Kyrgyzstan	8	3	4	1	9	14	10
Tajikistan	8	0	7	1	4	21	1

GROUP 6

Japan*	8	8	0	0	52	1	24
Hong Kong	8	4	3	1	14	12	13
Malaysia	8	3	3	2	17	17	11
Nepal	8	2	4	2	9	23	8
Philippines	8	0	7	1	4	43	1

GROUP 7

China PR*	6	6	0	0	20	0	18
Korea DPR	6	3	2	1	10	5	10
Myanmar	6	1	4	1	2	18	4
Vietnam	6	0	4	2	3	12	2

GROUP 8

Korea Republic*	3	3	0	0	19	0	9
Indonesia	3	2	1	0	4	9	6
Chinese Taipei	3	1	2	0	5	10	3
Sri Lanka	3	0	3	0	2	11	0

GROUP 9

Thailand*	2	1	0	1	2	0	4
India	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

* 2nd Round Qualifiers

Second Round

GROUP A

	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Kuwait	2	1	1	0	5	2	3
Qatar	2	1	1	0	4	5	3
Saudi Arabia	2	1	1	0	3	5	3

29/10/99	Saudi Arabia	vs	Qatar
07/11/99	Kuwait	vs	Saudi Arabia
12/11/99	Qatar	vs	Kuwait

GROUP B

	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Korea Republic	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
China PR	3	1	2	0	3	3	4
Bahrain	2	0	2	0	1	3	0

05/11/99	Bahrain	vs	China
13/11/99	Korea	vs	Bahrain

GROUP C

	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Japan	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Thailand	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Kazakhstan	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

30/10/99	Thailand	vs	Kazakhstan
06/10/99	Japan	vs	Kazakhstan
13/11/99	Thailand	vs	Japan

WORLD

RONALDO & DENILSON TO COME DOWNUNDER

Brazil striker Ronaldo will miss this month's friendly away to Spain and will instead travel to Australia with the under-23 squad, national team coach Wanderley Luxemburgo said last Thursday.

There was head-scratching all round as Luxemburgo announced both a senior and an under-23 squad and amazingly included himself and his star player with the latter.

Winger Denilson, who has struggled to live up

to his billing as the world's most expensive player, was also included for the Australia tour along with Ronaldo Assis, hailed as the latest Brazilian sensation.

They will line up alongside players who are barely known in Brazil itself, such as defender Milton do O and midfielder Mozart.

A total of 41 players were picked and there was further confusion as Luxemburgo named a senior squad with no goalkeepers, saying that he wanted to see last weekend's Brazilian championship games before making his final decision.

Brazil are away to Spain in a full international friendly on November 13 and play away to Australia on November 14 and 17.

The last two matches will be used as warm-ups for the Olympic Games qualifying competition in January and February.

The decision to send Ronaldo and Luxemburgo to Australia is apparently to placate local organisers, who wanted Brazil to send a strong squad. Ronaldo will not take part in the Olympic qualifiers, although he may be included in the Games themselves as one of the three permitted over-age players.

Last month the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) issued a press release giving an assurance that it would include top-line players in the squad for Australia.

The squad for the Spain match was made up entirely of foreign-based players as the match coincides with the quarter-finals of the Brazilian championship. The squad will be coached by Luxemburgo's assistant Candinho.

Porto striker Jardel, repeatedly overlooked by Luxemburgo despite regularly scoring for his club, finally earned a call-up.

As usual, Luxemburgo left indisposed Vasco da Gama striker Edmundo out of either squad.

BRAZIL SQUAD FOR THE SPAIN MATCH:

GOALKEEPERS:

To be named

DEFENDERS:

Cafu (Roma), Antonio Carlos (Roma), Aldair (Roma), Cesar (Paris St Germain), Evanilson (Borussia Dortmund), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid), Silvinho (Arsenal)

MIDFIELDERS:

Emerson Ferreira (Bayer Leverkusen), Marcos Assuncao (Roma), Ze Elias (Bologna), Rivaldo (Barcelona), Giovanni (Olympiakos), Ze Roberto (Bayer Leverkusen)

FORWARDS:

Elber (Bayern Munich), Sonny Anderson (Lyon), Jardel (Porto), Savio (Real Madrid).

UNDER-23 SQUAD FOR AUSTRALIA MATCHES:

GOALKEEPERS:

Renato (Corinthians), Silvio (Sao Caetano), Alexandre (Ponte Preta)

DEFENDERS:

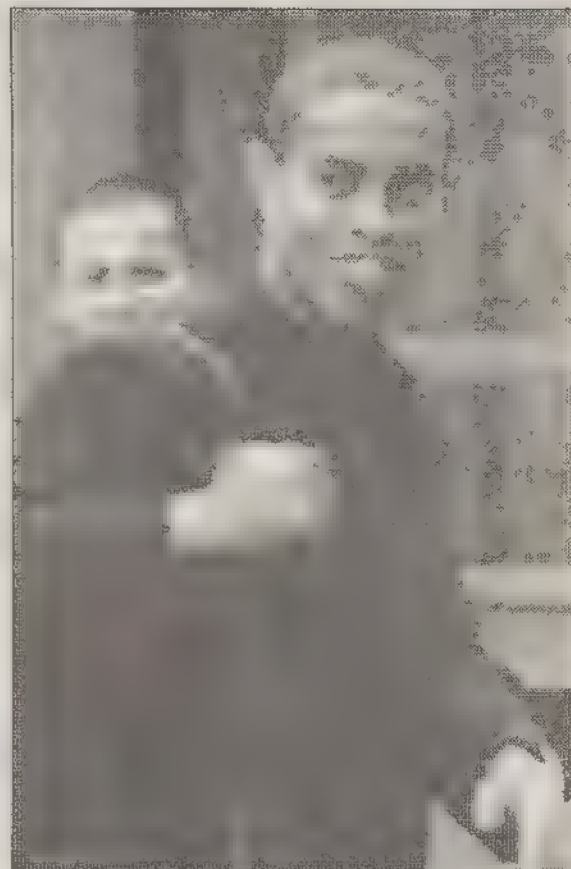
Mancini (Mineiro), Michel (Santos), Dede (Dortmund), Athirson (Flamengo), Cris (Cruzeiro), Alvaro (Goias), Fabio (Venezia), Luis Alberto (Flamengo), Milton do O (Parana)

MIDFIELDERS:

Marcos Paulo (Cruzeiro), Fabiano (Sao Paulo), Mozart (Coritiba), Adriano (Atletico Paranaense), Felipe (Vasco), Alex (Palmeiras), Denilson (Real Betis).

FORWARDS:

Ronaldo Assis (Gremio), Ronaldo (Inter), Fabio Junior (Roma), Warley (Udinese).



Ronaldo Assis: Brazil's future star.

EUROPE'S TOP GOALSCORERS

German striker Ulf Kirsten's goal for Bayer Leverkusen against Lazio in the Champions League last Wednesday moved him up into the all-time top 20 scorers' list in European club competition.

The goal was Kirsten's 33rd though he has still not halfway to the record tally of 67 set by Bayern Munich marksman Gerd Mueller.

Belgium's Luc Nilis, who scored for PSV Eindhoven last Tuesday against Bayern, has 37 goals and needs one more to join an illustrious list of players in the top 10.

Ukrainian striker Serhiy Rebrov, who scored twice for Dynamo Kiev in last Wednesday's Champions League game against Maribor Teatonic, has taken his tally in the European Cup to 23, a figure only ever bettered by eight other players.

Following are the leading scorers in all European competitions and in the European Cup/Champions League

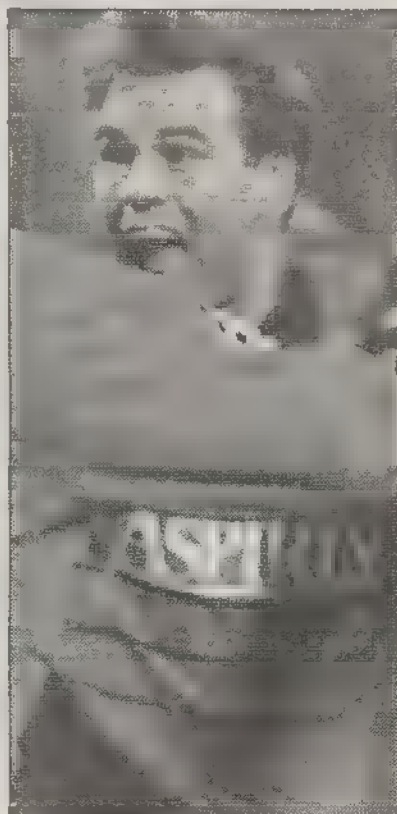
All competitions:

1.	Gerd Mueller	(Germany)	67
2.	Eusebio	(Portugal)	57
3.	Jupp Heynckes	(Germany)	52
4.	Alfredo Di Stefano	(Spain)	49
5.	Carlos Santillana	(Spain)	47
6.	Allan Simonsen	(Denmark)	43

7=	Alex Altobelli	(Italy)	39
7=	Ferenc Bene	(Hungary)	39
9=	Zoran Filipovic	(Bulgaria)	38
9=	Jean-Pierre Papin	(France)	38
9=	Karl Rummengge	(Germany)	38
12=	Dieter Mueller	(Germany)	37
12=	Luc Nilis	(Belgium)	37
14=	Johan Cruyff	(Netherlands)	36
14=	Ferenc Puskas	(Hungary)	36
14=	Rob Rensenbrink	(Netherlands)	36
17=	Jose Altafini	(Brazil)	35
17=	Gianluca Vialli	(Italy)	35
19=	Florian Albert	(Hungary)	33
19=	Ulf Kirsten	(Germany)	33
19=	Torbjorn Nilsson	(Sweden)	33
19=	Hristo Stoichkov	(Bulgaria)	33
19=	Paul Van Himst	(Belgium)	33
19=	George Weah	(Liberia)	33

European Cup/Champions League only

1	Di Stefano	49
2.	Eusebio	46
3=	Gerd Mueller	36
3=	Puskas	36
5.	Francisco Gento	31
6	Papin	28
7=	Altobelli	24
7=	Jose Augusto	24
9.	Serhiy Rebrov	23
10=	Amancio	21



Ulf Kirsten: moves into top 20.

RECORD ENTRIES

The 2002 World Cup is close to attracting a record number of participants, FIFA said last week.

A total of 172 of FIFA's 203 member associations have confirmed their participation in the qualifying rounds of the World Cup, just two short of the record 174 which took part in the preliminary competition for the

1998 finals in France.

FIFA said it expected it would easily surpass the previous mark before the deadline for registration at the end

of November.

Armenia is the only one of Europe's 51 member associations which has not confirmed its participation. Venezuela is the only South American country which has yet to indicate if it will take part.

The 2002 World Cup finals will be co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.



OFFICIAL: NO FA CUP FOR MAN U

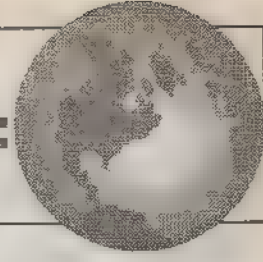
Manchester United have confirmed they will not defend the English F.A. Cup this season, preferring to play in a new world club tournament in Brazil.

United, who completed a winning treble in the European Cup, English Premier League and F.A. Cup last season, have written to tell the English Football Association of their final decision not to play in the oldest cup competition.

United secretary Ken Merrett told the Manchester Evening News: "The issue is now dead. We will not be entering this season's F.A. Cup."

The club faced a fixture pile up over the next few months, having already qualified for the last 16 of Europe's Champions League.

They have committed themselves to playing in the inaugural World Club Championship in Brazil from January 5 to 14. It is worth about A\$8 million to the winners.



CELTIC SIGN WRIGHT PLAYER

Celtic signed former England forward Ian Wright from West Ham United last Thursday to help fill the goalscoring gap left by Swedish international Henrik Larsson's bad injury.

No fee was paid for the 35-year-old Wright who signed on with the Scottish Premier League side until the end of the season when he plans to retire to pursue a television career.

But Wright told a news conference he would not rule out a change of heart if his move to

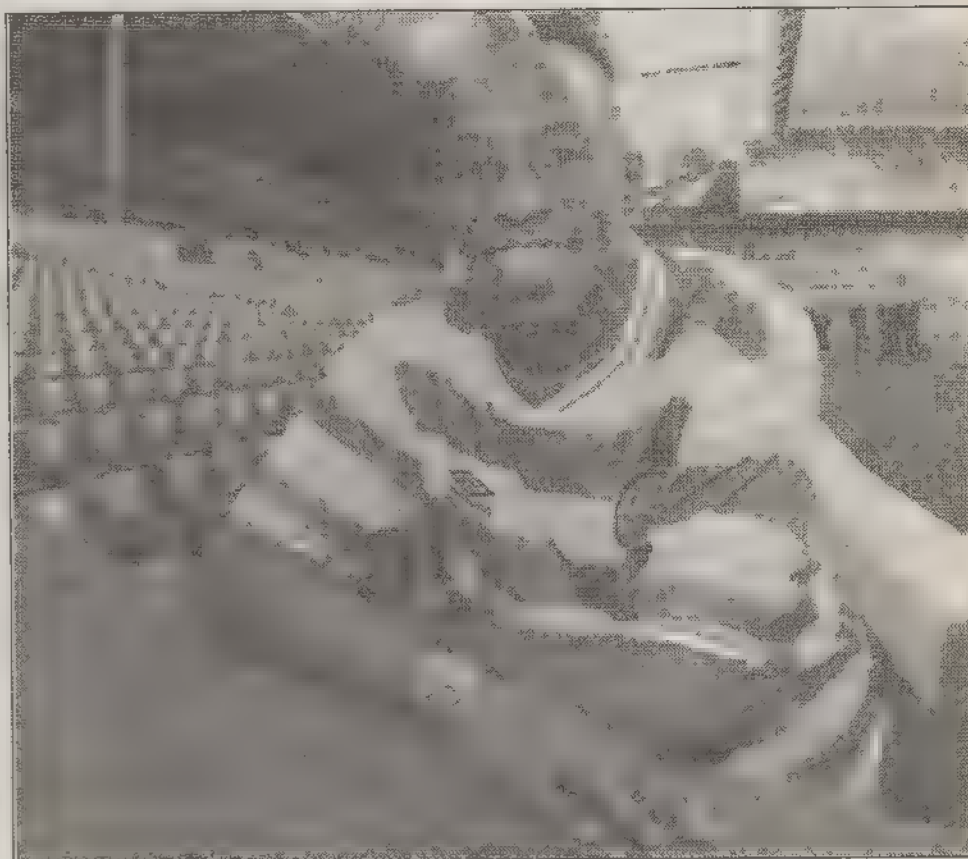
Parkhead went well.

"I will see what the situation is then and deal with it," said the former Crystal Palace and Arsenal striker who earned 33 caps for England. "Celtic know I will do a good job for them until Henrik comes back."



Larsson, who was voted Player of the Year in Scotland and his native Sweden last season, is out until next season after breaking his leg in two places last Thursday week against Olympique Lyon in a UEFA Cup tie.

Wright, who became Arsenal's highest-ever scorer with 181 goals during his time at the London club from 1991 to 1998, scored nine goals for West Ham last season but was loaned out to Nottingham Forest this season.



Ian Wright: Pictured at his new soccer home Parkhead.



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KEANE IS BACK

Ireland's Manchester United captain Roy Keane was named last Wednesday in the Republic of Ireland's squad for the Euro 2000 play-offs against Turkey this month after missing the last three matches due to injury.

Ireland must beat Turkey to qualify for next year's finals.

The first leg of the tie is on November 13 at Lansdowne Road in Dublin.

Keane's last international appearance was in Ireland's 2-1 victory at home to Yugoslavia in September.

The midfielder has been plagued by a recurring knee injury and missed the away games against Croatia, Malta and Macedonia.

Ireland lost 1-0 to Croatia, beat Malta 3-2 and drew 1-1 with Macedonia.



Roy Keane: Has been re-called to the National squad.

Irish Squad for Euro 2000 play-off against Turkey:

Goalkeepers: Alan Kelly (Blackburn), Shay Given (Newcastle Utd), Dean Kiely (Charlton)

Defenders: Denis Irwin (Manchester Utd), Stephen Carr (Tottenham), Jeff Kenna (Blackburn), Stephen Staunton (Liverpool), Kenny Cunningham (Wimbledon), Ian Harte (Leeds), Gary Breen (Coventry).

Midfielders: Phil Babb (Liverpool), Roy Keane (Manchester Utd), Mark Kinsella (Charlton), Alan McLoughlin (Preston), Jason McAteer (Blackburn), Graham Kavanagh (Stoke City), Rory Delap (Derby), Lee Carsley (Blackburn), Gary Kelly (Leeds), Damien Duff (Blackburn), Mark Kennedy (Manchester City), Gareth Whalley (Bradford)

Forwards: Matt Holland (Ipswich), Niall Quinn (Sunderland), Tony Cascarino (Nancy), Robbie Keane (Coventry), Keith O'Neill (Middlesbrough), David Kelly (Tranmere), Kevin Kilbane (West Bromwich Albion), David Connolly (Feyenoord).

SPURS IN THE BLACK

Tottenham Hotspur reported a pre-tax profit last week of 1.3 million pounds (£3.3 million) in the year to July 1999 against a loss of one million pounds in 1998.

Turnover increased by 37 percent to 42.6 million

pounds, helped by the Premier League club winning the League Cup and reaching the semifinals of the F.A. Cup.

Payroll costs in the player and coaching department rose by 31 percent to 20.2 million pounds.

Chairman Alan Sugar

said: "The introduction of digital television now gives clubs more options collectively and individually."

"We will be able to boost our income significantly from this source."

But he said he believed wages were likely to continue to spiral.



ENGLAND 2006 BID IS 'OUTSTANDING'

England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup is outstanding and on a par with that of Germany, a delegation from world soccer's governing body FIFA said last week.

"It is an excellent bid," declared Alan Rothenberg, the American head of the delegation that visited stadiums around the country and enjoyed lavish hospitality during a five day inspection tour.

Rothenberg also called the German 2006 bid "outstanding" during his group's five-day visit to that country the week before and, asked to compare the two, replied simply that "each was excellent".



He insisted that each bid was being looked at in "absolute" rather than comparative terms.

"We aren't making any rankings," he added.

Alec McGivan, director of England's bid, said Rothenberg's summation "seems to me like a pretty reasonable description of our bid...I really couldn't have asked for a better visit from our point of view."

The six-man inspection delegation was reduced to five halfway through their English visit when China's Zhang Jilong had to leave because his wife was admitted to hospital.

The group has yet to visit the remaining three bid candidates Brazil, Morocco and South Africa and no dates have yet been finalised for those trips although they are expected to be early in the New Year.

Rothenberg, summing up the visit at a final news conference, said Germany and England had

been inspected first because of concerns about the weather later in the year and they were impressed with what they had seen.

"First of all, the English written bid submission was outstanding," Rothenberg said.

He said that the inspectors had tried to gauge the depths of soccer passion among ordinary people and officials and again "what we saw was extraordinary".

Rothenberg called the organisation of the visit "near perfect" and said there was "probably the most sophisticated security that we've seen".

"The stadiums obviously are outstanding. Obviously new Wembley is going to be a magnificent facility," he said.

"Probably we were as much impressed by those facilities that have been renovated without destroying the traditions such as Anfield and Villa Park," Rothenberg added.

Asked whether the loss of the Twin Towers at Wembley, which are not due to feature in the new stadium to be built on the site, would be a negative factor, Rothenberg smiled:



"I looked through the FIFA list of requirements and that wasn't required."

The inspection team met Prime Minister Tony Blair and were taken by helicopters of the Royal Squadron to Wembley, where they landed on the pitch.

They also visited Villa Park, Derby's Pride Park and Sunderland's Stadium of Light before travelling to Liverpool and



Alan Rothenberg: "It is an excellent bid."

Manchester United where they met players including Liverpool and England striker Michael Owen.

A gala banquet was then held at Hampton Court Palace Kevin Keegan, former striker Gary Lineker and Hollywood actor Hugh Grant.

Grant made a big impression night with a lively, somewhat racy speech celebrating not only the "new age" of English soccer, but also its more earthy qualities in language that at times left little to the imagination.

Rothenberg said he was impressed by the level of soccer passion evident everywhere, with Blair introduced as a Newcastle United supporter and Grant as a Fulham fan.

But he added that a boy waiting in the rain at Derby had probably provided his most memorable moment.

"If there was one memory, it was that 10-year-old kid at Derby, cheering us on and saying: 'Look for me. I'll be out on the field in 2006,' he said.

"...The 10-year-old kid said: 'look for me. I'll be out on the field in 2006'..."

TV GUIDE

* All times are Australian Eastern Standard Time

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2		
English Premier League Liverpool v Bradford (LIVE) Fox Sports 6am - 9.30am	UEFA Champions League Teams TBA SBS TV 10pm - 12am	10.30am - 11.30am On The Ball SBS TV 11.30am - 12.30pm
Brazilian National Football Guarani v Vitoria Optus Vision (ESPN) 8am - 10am	Soccer Central Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12) 10.30pm - 11.30pm	English Premier League (Repeat) Fox Sports 2.30pm - 4.30pm
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5		
English Premier League Liverpool v Bradford (Repeat) Fox Sports 4.30pm - 6.30pm	Spanish Soccer (Replay) Fox Sports 2 10am - 12pm	French Premier League Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13) 4pm - 6pm
WEDNESDAY NOV. 3		
UEFA Champions League Fiorentina v Barcelona (LIVE) Optus Vision (ESPN) 6.30am - 8.45am	German Bundesliga Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13) 3.30pm - 5.30pm	National Soccer League Highlights ABC TV 5pm - 7pm
UEFA Champions League Dynamo Kiev v Lazio Optus Vision (ESPN) 8.45am - 11am	Soccer Scene Fox Sports 5.30pm - 6.30pm	National Soccer League Sydney Olympic v Auckland (LIVE) Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12) 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Best of English Soccer Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12) 11am - 12pm	National Soccer League Newcastle v Marconi (LIVE) Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13) 7.30pm - 9.30pm	Scottish Premier League Celtic v Rangers (LIVE) Fox Sports 11pm - 2am
UEFA Champions League Manchester Utd v Sturm Graz Optus Vision (ESPN) 4pm - 6pm	National Soccer League Canberra v Carlton Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12) 10.30pm - 12.30am	Dutch Football Sparta v Ajax (LIVE) Optus Vision (ESPN) 12.25am - 2.30am (Monday morning)
English Premier League Show Fox Sports 7.30pm - 9pm	Saturday October 6 English First Division Port Vale v Crewe Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13) 10am - 12pm	English Premier League Wimbledon v Leeds (LIVE) Fox Sports 2am - 5.30am (Monday morning)
THURSDAY NOV. 4		
UEFA Champions League Bayern Munich v Rangers (LIVE) Optus Vision (ESPN) 6.30am - 8.45am	Scottish Premier League Hibernian v Dundee Utd. Fox Sports 12.30pm - 2.30pm	MONDAY NOVEMBER 8 US Major League Soccer Playoff Final Game 2 (LIVE) Optus Vision (ESPN) 7am - 9am
UEFA Champions League Valencia v PSV Eindhoven Optus Vision (ESPN) 8.45am - 11am	UEFA Champions League Highlights SBS TV 3.30pm - 4.30pm	Scottish Premier League Celtic v Rangers (Replay) Fox Sports 2 12pm - 2pm
UEFA Champions League Galatasaray v AC Milan Optus Vision (ESPN) 4pm - 6pm	World Soccer SBS TV PAOK v Benfica UEFA CUP 4.30pm - 5.30pm	English Premier League Wimbledon v Leeds (Replay) Fox Sports 2 2pm - 4pm
European Soccer Show Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12) 5.30pm - 6.30pm	English Premier League (Repeat) SBS TV 5.30pm - 6.30pm	English Premier League Highlights Fox Sports 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Spanish Soccer Fox Sports 8.30pm - 10.30pm	English Premier League (LIVE) Fox Sports 2am - 4am (Sunday Morning)	English Premier League Highlights SBS TV 7.30pm - 8.30pm
UEFA Champions League Bayern Munich v Rangers (Repeat) Optus Vision (ESPN) 9pm - 11pm	SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7 Italian Serie A (LIVE) Optus Vision (ESPN) 6.25am - 8.30am	TUESDAY NOVEMBER 9 English Premier League Newcastle v Everton (LIVE) Fox Sports 6am - 9.30am
Italian Serie A Highlights SBS TV		



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A

Lazio 1 (Pavel Nedved 1) Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Ulf Kirsten 43). Maribor Teatonic 1 (Stipe Balajic 50) Dynamo Kiev 2 (Serhiy Rebrov 37, 84pen).

GROUP B

Barcelona 5 (Patrick Kluivert 14, 32, Boudewijn Zenden 42, Gabri Garcia 53, Frederic Dehu 55) AIK Stockholm 0. Arsenal 0 Fiorentina 1 (Gabriel Batistuta 75).

GROUP C

Rosenborg Trondheim 2 (Orjan Berg 62, Tore Andre Dahlum 66) Boavista 0, Borussia Dortmund 1 (Otto Addo 45) Feyenoord 1 (Peter van Vossen 73).

GROUP D

Croatia Zagreb 1 (Robert Prosinecki 90) Manchester United 2 (David Beckham 32, Roy Keane 49). Sturm Graz 3 (Roman Maehlich 17, Tomislav Kocijan 62, 85) Olympique Marseille 2 (Christophe Dugarry 51, 78).

GROUP E

Real Madrid 3 (Raul 20, Fernando Morientes 63, Roberto Carlos 82) Olympiakos Piraeus 0. Porto 3 (Deco Sousa 1, 27, Mario Jardel 57) Molde 1 (Berg Hestad 82).

GROUP F

PSV Eindhoven 2 (Ruud van Nistelrooy 40, Luc Nilis 57) Bayern Munich 1 (Roque Santa Cruz 51). Rangers 1 (Craig Moore 60) Valencia 2 (Gaizca Mendietta 35, Claudio Lopez 45).

GROUP G

Spartak Moscow 1 (Artyom Bezrodny 25) Willem II Tilburg 1 (Ousmane Sanou 69). Girondins Bordeaux 0 Sparta Prague 0.

GROUP H

AC Milan 1 (Oliver Bierhoff 74) Chelsea 1 (Dennis Wise 77). Hertha Berlin 1 (Kjetil Rekdal 35pen) Galatasaray 4 (Hakan Sukur 48, 66, Kerimoglu Tugay 81, Buruk Okan 90).

UEFA CUP

Tottenham Hotspur 1 (Steffen Iversen 34pen) Kaiserslautern 0. RC Lens 4 (Philippe Brunel 3, Pascal Nouma 17, Peter Collen 74og, Jocelyn Blanchard 87) Vitesse Arnhem 1 (Pierre Van Hooijdonck 72pen).

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Coventry City 4 Watford 0, Sunderland 2 Tottenham Hotspur 1, Arsenal 0 Newcastle United 0, Derby County 3 Chelsea 1, Leeds United 1 West Ham United 0, Leicester City 3 Sheffield Wednesday 0, Manchester United 3 Aston Villa 0, Middlesbrough 2 Everton 1, Wimbledon 1 Southampton 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Leeds United	13	9	2	2	26	16	29
2. Manchester United	13	8	3	2	31	19	27
3. Sunderland	13	8	3	2	23	11	27
4. Arsenal	13	8	2	3	20	12	26
5. Leicester City	13	7	2	4	23	17	23
6. Middlesbrough	13	7	0	6	18	17	21
7. Tottenham Hotspur	12	6	2	4	21	17	20
8. Chelsea	11	6	1	4	18	10	19
9. Everton	13	5	3	5	22	20	18
10. Liverpool	12	5	3	4	13	11	18
11. Aston Villa	13	5	3	5	13	15	18
12. West Ham United	12	5	2	5	12	11	17
13. Coventry City	13	4	4	5	20	15	16
14. Southampton	12	3	4	5	19	23	13
15. Wimbledon	13	2	7	4	19	27	13
16. Derby County	13	3	3	7	13	22	12
17. Newcastle United	13	3	2	8	23	27	11
18. Bradford City	11	3	2	6	9	17	11
19. Watford	13	3	0	10	8	22	9
20. Sheffield Wednesday	13	1	2	10	8	30	5

Leading Scorers

13 - Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)
11 - Alan Shearer (Newcastle United)
9 - Michael Bridges (Leeds United), Andy Cole (Manchester United)
8 - Dwight Yorke (Manchester United), Dion Dublin (Aston Villa)
7 - Muzzy Izzet (Leicester City), Nwankwo Kanu

(Arsenal), Kevin Campbell (Everton), Marians Pahars (Southampton), Steffen Iversen (Tottenham Hotspur)
6 - John Hartson (Wimbledon), Robbie Keane (Coventry City), Tony Cottee (Leicester City), Brian Deane (Middlesbrough)
5 - Davor Suker (Arsenal), Paolo De Canio (West Ham United), Rory Delap (Derby County), Niall Quinn (Sunderland)

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

West Bromwich 1 Wolverhampton 1, Barnsley 1 Nottingham Forest 0, Birmingham 1 Charlton 0, Blackburn 0 Queens Park Rangers 2, Bolton 2 Swindon 0, Fulham 1 Norwich 1, Ipswich 2 Grimsby 0, Port Vale 1 Manchester City 2, Portsmouth 3 Crystal Palace 1, Sheffield United 0 Huddersfield 1, Stockport 1 Walsall 1, Tranmere 2 Crewe 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Manchester City	15	10	2	3	21	8	32
2. Ipswich	14	8	2	4	28	17	26
3. Charlton	13	8	2	3	23	14	26
4. Birmingham	16	7	5	4	25	17	26
5. Huddersfield	15	7	4	4	26	18	25
6. Fulham	14	6	7	1	17	9	25
7. Barnsley	15	8	1	6	28	25	25
8. Queens Park Rangers	14	6	5	3	20	14	23
9. Stockport	15	6	5	4	17	19	23
10. Wolverhampton	15	5	7	3	15	15	22
11. Bolton	15	5	5	5	22	18	20
12. Norwich	15	5	5	5	15	15	20
13. Portsmouth	14	5	4	5	19	21	19
14. Grimsby	15	5	4	6	15	20	19
15. Nottingham Forest	15	4	6	5	20	17	18
16. West Bromwich	14	3	9	2	13	11	18
17. Tranmere	16	4	4	8	20	27	16
18. Sheffield United	15	4	4	7	18	25	16
19. Blackburn	14	3	6	5	15	16	15
20. Crystal Palace	15	3	5	7	20	28	14
21. Walsall	16	3	5	8	13	26	14
22. Crewe	14	3	4	7	15	24	13
23. Swindon	16	3	4	9	12	25	13
24. Port Vale	16	3	3	10	18	26	12

ENGLISH FA CUP FIRST ROUND

Aldershot 1 Hednesford 1, Bath 0 Hendon 2, Blackpool 2 Stoke 2, Brentford 2 Plymouth 3, Bristol City 3 Mansfield 2, Bristol Rovers v Preston (postponed), Burton 0 Rochdale 0, Cambridge C 0 Wigan 2, Cambridge 1 Gateshead 0, Cheltenham 1 Gillingham 1, Chesterfield 1 Enfield 2, Darlington 2 Southport 1, Doncaster 0 Halifax 2, Exeter 2 Eastwood 1, Forest Green 6 Guiseley 0, Hartlepool v Millwall (postponed), Hayes 2 Runcorn 1, Hereford 1 York 0, Ilkeston 2 Carlisle 1, Leyton Orient 1 Cardiff 1, Lincoln 1 Welling 0, Luton 4 Kingstonsian 2, Macclesfield 0 Hull City 0, Merthyr v Stalybridge (postponed), Notts County 1 Bourmemouth 1, Oldham 4 Chelmsford 0, Oxford 3 Morecambe 2, Peterborough 1- Brighton 1, Reading 4 Yeovil 2, Rotherham 3 Worthing 0, Shrewsbury 2 Northampton 1, St Albans 0 Bamber Bridge 2, Swansea 2 Colchester 1, Tamworth 2 Bury 2, Torquay 1 Southend 0 Whyteleafe 0 Chester 0, Wrexham 1 Kettering 1, Wycombe 1 Oxford City 1, Rushden & D 2 Scunthorpe 0.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Hibernian 3 Dundee United 2, Aberdeen 1 Rangers 5, Celtic 5 Kilmarnock 1, Dundee 1 Hearts, Motherwell 1 St Johnstone 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rangers	10	9	1	0	30	8	28
2. Celtic	11	9	0	2	32	6	27
3. Dundee United	12	6	2	4	17	17	20
4. Motherwell	11	4	4	3	18	19	16
5. Hearts	10	4	3	3	17	14	15
6. Hibernian	12	3	5	4	21	24	14
7. St Johnstone	12	3	3	6	13	18	12
8. Dundee	12	4	0	8	17	24	12
9. Kilmarnock	12	2	4	6	12	18	10
10. Aberdeen	12	1	2	9	12	41	5

Leading scorers

12 - Mark Viduka (Celtic)
9 - Michael Mols (Rangers)
7 - Henrik Larsson (Celtic), Willie Falconer (Dundee), Nathan Lowndes (St Johnstone), Billy Dodds (Dundee United), Russell Latapy (Hibernian)
6 - Gary McSwegan (Hearts)
5 - John Spencer (Motherwell)
4 - Claudio Reyna (Rangers), Jorg Albertz (Rangers), Eyal Berkovic (Celtic), Lee McCulloch (Motherwell),

Dirk Lehmann (Hibernian), Jonatan Johansson (Rangers)

3 - Stephane Adam (Hearts), Rod Wallace (Rangers), Robbie Winters (Aberdeen), Paul Bernard (Aberdeen), Franck Sauzee (Hibernian), Mark Burchill (Celtic), Colin Cameron (Hearts), Christophe Cocard (Kilmarnock).

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

Airdrie 2 Ayr 1, Clydebank 0 Inverness CT 3, Livingston 1 Falkirk 1, Raith 3 G Morton 1, St Mirren 3 Dunfermline 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. St Mirren	12	8	3	1	33	15	27
2. Dunfermline	12	5	6	1	21	13	21
3. Raith	12	6	3	3	25	20	21
4. Livingston	12	5	5	2	21	14	20
5. Falkirk	12	5	3	4	19	20	18
6. Airdrie	12	4	4	4	11	18	16
7. Inverness CT	12	3	4	5	15	18	13
8. Ayr	12	4	1	7	15	21	13
9. G Morton	12	3	3	6	18	22	12
10. Clydebank	12	0	2	10	8	25	2

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

Partick 0 Clyde 0, Ross County 1 Alloa 0, Stenhousemuir 2 Queen of South 1, Stirling 3 Arbroath 4, Stranraer 0 Hamilton 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Arbroath	12	7	3	2	27	19	24
2. Alloa	12	5	5	2	13	11	20
3. Ross County	12	5	4	3	12	8	19
4. Stenhousemuir	12	5	3	4	17	17	18
5. Clyde	12	4	4	4	12	9	16
6. Stranraer	12	3	7	2	10	10	16
7. Hamilton	12	4	3	5	14	17	15
8. Stirling	12	4	2	6	22	21	14
9. Queen of South	12	2	4	6	17	24	10
10. Partick	12	2	3	7	8	16	9

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Cowdenbeath 1 Berwick 1, East Stirling 0 Brechin 0, Forfar 3 East Fife 2, Montrose 2 Albion 1, Queens Park 3 Dumbarton 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Queens Park	12	9	3	0	22	11	30
2. East Fife	12	7	2	3	16	11	23
3. Forfar	12	6	4	2	21	10	22
4. Cowdenbeath	12	5	4	3	18	11	19
5. Berwick	12	5	3	4	17	12	18
6. Dumbarton	12	5	2	5	21	20	17
7. Montrose	12	4	2	6	16	18	14
8. East Stirling	12	2	4	6	9	17	10
9. Brechin	12	1	3	8	8	24	6
10. Albion	12	0	5	7	7	21	5

ITALIAN SERIE A

Juventus 1 Piacenza 0, Lecce 0 Perugia 1, Parma 2 Bari 1, AS Roma 2 Cagliari 2, Udinese 3 Reggina 2, Verona 0 AC Milan 0, Fiorentina 1 Torino 1, Inter Milan 1 Lazio 1, Venezia 0 Bologna 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Lazio	8	5	3	0	19	9	18
2. Juventus	8	5	2	1	10	5	17
3. AC Milan	8	3	5	0	18	11	14
4. Inter Milan	8	4	2	2	13	6	14
5. AS Roma	8	3	4	1	13	8	13
6. Perugia	8	4	1	3	11	11	13
7. Parma	8	3	3	2	13	12	12
8. Udinese	8	3	3	2	13	12	12
9. Torino	8	2	4	2	9	10	10
10. Bologna	8	2	4	2	4	6	10
11. Reggina	8	2	3	3	11	12	9
12. Fiorentina	8	2	3	3	10	12	9
13. Lecce	8	2	2	4	9	13	8
14. Verona	8	2	2	4	5	11	8
15. Bari	8	1	4	3	6	9	7
16. Piacenza	8	1	3	4	5	9	6
17. Venezia	8	1	2	5	6	11	5
18. Cagliari	8	0	4	4	7	15	4

Leading scorers

7 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan)
5 - Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina), Christian Vieri (Inter Milan)
4 - Sebastian Veron (Lazio), Cristiano Lucarelli (Lecce), Hernan Crespo (Parma), Roberto Muzzi (Udinese)
3 - Duccio Innocenti (Bari), Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus), Ivan Zamorano (Inter Milan), Simone

Inzaghi, Marcelo Salas (Lazio), Oliver Bierhoff, George Weah (AC Milan), Renato Olive (Perugia), Mohammed Kallon (Reggina), Marco Ferrante (Torino), Paolo Poggi (Udinese), Filippo Maniero (Venezia)

2 - Yksel Osmanovski (Bari), Giuseppe Signori (Bologna), Daniele Berretta, Patrick Mboma (Cagliari), Enrico Chiesa (Fiorentina), Ronaldo (Inter Milan), Antonio Conte, Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus), Giuseppe Pancaro, Dejan Stankovic (Lazio), Leonardo (AC Milan), Alain Boghossian (Parma), Nicola Amoruso, Marco Materazzi and Hidetoshi Nakata (Perugia), Davide Dionigi (Piacenza), Roberto Baronio and Davide Possanzini (Reggina), Cafu, Marco Delvecchio, Vincenzo Montella and Francesco Totti (AS Roma), Alessio Scarchilli (Torino), Stefano Fiore (Udinese).

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

Alaves 1 Celta Vigo 0, Athletic Bilbao 1 Oviedo 1, Espanyol 1 Real Zaragoza 1, Real Betis 1 Real Sociedad 0, Numancia 2 Sevilla 0, Racing Santander 1 Real Mallorca 1, Valladolid 1 Rayo Vallecano 2, Malaga 1 Valencia 1, Real Madrid 1 Atletico Madrid 3, Deportivo Coruna 2 Barcelona 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rayo Vallecano	10	7	1	2	14	9	22
2. Barcelona	10	6	2	2	24	11	20
3. Real Zaragoza	10	5	3	2	17	7	18
4. Deportivo Coruna	10	5	3	2	18	12	18
5. Celta Vigo	10	6	0	4	11	10	18
6. Real Betis	10	5	1	4	9	13	16
7. Racing Santander	10	4	3	3	18	16	15
8. Espanyol	10	4	2	4	13	14	14
9. Alaves	10	4	2	4	9	10	14
10. Atletico Madrid	10	4	1	5	14	16	13
11. Real Madrid	10	2	6	2	18	17	12
12. Athletic Bilbao	10	3	3	4	13	17	12
13. Oviedo	10	3	3	4	9	13	12
14. Numancia	10	3	3	4	11	17	12
15. Valencia	10	3	2	5	13	12	11
16. Real Mallorca	10	3	2	5	13	15	11
17. Valladolid	10	3	2	5	10	14	11
18. Malaga	10	2	3	5	15	19	9
19. Real Sociedad	10	2	3	5	12	17	9
20. Sevilla	10	1	5	4	11	13	8

Leading scorers

13 - Salva Ballesta (Racing Santander)
10 - Savo Milosevic (Real Zaragoza)
7 - Catanha (Malaga), Dani Garcia (Barcelona), Rivaldo (Barcelona), Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Atletico Madrid)
6 - Victor Fernandez (Valladolid), Roy Makaay (Deportivo Coruna)
5 - Raul (Real Madrid), Djalminda (Deportivo Coruna)
4 - Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid), Miguel Angel Benitez (Espanyol), Vassilis Tsartas (Sevilla), Luis Figo (Barcelona)

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

SpVgg Unterhaching 1 SC Freiburg 0, VfB Stuttgart 0 Kaiserslautern 1, Hamburg SV 1 Borussia Dortmund 1, Bayern Munich 5 VfL Wolfsburg 0, Schalke 04 1 Hertha Berlin 1, Bayer Leverkusen 1 TSV 1860 Munich 1, MSV Duisburg 0 SSV Ulm 0, Arminia Bielefeld 1 Eintracht Frankfurt 1, Werder Bremen 2 Hans Rostock 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bayern München	10	6	2	2	18	9	20
2. Borussia Dortmund	10	6	2	2	15	7	20
3. Hamburg SV	10	5	4	1	20	10	19
4. Bayer Leverkusen	10	5	4	1	16	9	19
5. Schalke 04	10	4	4	2	13	10	16
6. Werder Bremen	10	4	3	3	22	13	15
7. TSV 1860 München	10	4	3	3	16	11	15
8. VfL Wolfsburg	10	4	3	3	14	19	15
9. 1. FC Kaiserslautern	10	4	1	5	13	20	13
10. Hansa Rostock	10	4	1	5	14	22	13
11. SC Freiburg	10	3	3	4	15	11	12
12. Hertha BSC Berlin	10	2	6	2	14	16	12
13. SpVgg Unterhaching	10	3	2	5	9	12	11
14. VfB Stuttgart	10	3	2	5	8	13	11
15. Arminia Bielefeld	10	2	4	4	8	15	10
16. SSV Ulm	10	2	3	5	10	16	9
17. Eintracht Frankfurt	10	2	2	6	11	16	8
18. MSV Duisburg	10	0	5	5	9	16	5

WORLD

Excludes Monday games

Leading Scorers

7 - Elber (Bayern Munich), Jonathan Akpoborie (VfL Wolfsburg)
6 - Claudio Pizarro (Werder Bremen), Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen)
5 - Marco Bode (Werder Bremen), Bachirou Salou (Eintracht Frankfurt), Adel Sellimi (SC Freiburg), Martin Max (1860 Munich)

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Racing Lens 1, Stade Rennes 1, Le Havre 3, Paris St Germain 1, Olympique Marseille 4, Racing Strasbourg 1, AJ Auxerre 2, Montpellier 1, Nancy 2, Girondins Bordeaux 2, St Etienne 2, Metz 0, Bastia 5, Troyes 0, Sedan 2, Olympique Lyon 0, Nantes 0, Monaco 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. AJ Auxerre	12	8	2	2	21	14	26
2. Olympique Lyon	13	7	3	3	15	10	24
3. Monaco	12	7	2	3	27	12	23
4. Girondins Bordeaux	13	6	4	3	23	18	22
5. Paris St Germain	13	6	3	4	19	17	21
6. Olympique Marseille	13	5	5	3	19	13	20
7. St Etienne	13	5	4	4	21	21	19
8. Sedan	13	6	1	6	20	23	19
9. Metz	13	4	6	3	16	11	18
10. Stade Rennes	13	5	3	5	20	19	18
11. Bastia	13	4	5	4	20	18	17
12. Racing Strasbourg	13	4	4	5	14	21	16
13. Racing Lens	13	4	3	6	9	15	15
14. Nancy	13	3	4	6	19	20	13
15. Le Havre	13	3	4	6	14	21	13
16. Montpellier	13	3	3	7	15	21	12
17. Nantes	13	4	0	9	13	19	12
18. Troyes	13	4	0	9	10	22	12

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

AZ Alkmaar 0, PSV Eindhoven 3, Vitesse Arnhem 3, Utrecht 1, MVV Maastricht 1, Fortuna Sittard 0, Den Bosch 1, Cambuur Leeuwarden 1, Ajax Amsterdam 1, Roda JC Kerkrade 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. PSV Eindhoven	10	9	1	0	45	8	28
2. Ajax Amsterdam	11	8	2	1	38	16	26
3. Willem II Tilburg	10	7	1	2	21	19	22
4. Heerenveen	11	7	1	3	18	12	22
5. Roda JC Kerkrade	11	7	1	3	18	13	22
6. Vitesse Arnhem	11	6	3	2	21	15	21
7. Twente Enschede	11	5	5	1	17	11	20
8. Feyenoord	10	5	3	2	18	8	18
9. RKC Waalwijk	11	5	2	4	18	21	17
10. AZ Alkmaar	11	5	1	5	19	19	16
11. Utrecht	11	5	0	6	14	18	15
12. Sparta Rotterdam	11	3	0	8	18	29	9
13. MVV Maastricht	11	2	2	7	14	28	8
14. Fortuna Sittard	11	2	1	8	12	21	7
15. Graafschap Doetinchem	11	1	4	6	9	15	7
16. Cambuur Leeuwarden	11	1	3	7	8	23	6
17. Den Bosch	11	1	3	7	12	32	6
18. NEC Nijmegen	10	1	1	8	14	26	4

Leading Scorers

18 - Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven)
13 - Pierre Van Hooijdonk (Vitesse Arnhem)
9 - Richard Knopper (Ajax Amsterdam) Brian Laudrup (Ajax)
8 - Luc Nilis (PSV)
7 Mariano Bombarda (Willem II Tilburg) Barry van Galen (AZ Alkmaar) Nikos Machlas (Ajax) Rick Hoogendorp (RKC Waalwijk) Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (Twente Enschede)

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Aalst 2, Mechelen 0, Club Bruges 5, Standard Liege 2, Verbroederen Geel 1, Beveren 1, Lommel 1, Charleroi 1, Sint-Truiden 0, Genk 5, Lokeren 0, Ghent 4, Germinal Beerschot 3, Westerlo 2, Lierse 1, Mouscron 0, Anderlecht 2, Harelbeke 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Anderlecht	10	8	2	0	30	14	26
2. Lierse	11	8	2	1	23	11	26
3. Ghent	11	8	0	3	35	18	24
4. Genk	11	6	4	1	29	14	22
5. Germinal Beerschot	11	6	2	3	21	17	20
6. Club Bruges	10	6	1	3	26	10	19
7. Mechelen	11	6	0	5	15	21	18
8. Eendracht Aalst	11	5	2	4	21	16	17
9. Charleroi	11	4	4	3	16	14	16

10. Westerlo	10	4	3	3	22	20	15
11. Excelsior Mouscron	11	4	2	5	21	19	14
12. Standard Liege	11	4	1	6	16	21	13
13. Sint-Truiden	11	2	2	7	13	29	8
14. Harelbeke	11	1	4	6	10	18	7
15. Lokeren	11	1	4	6	12	23	7
16. Lommel	11	1	4	6	14	26	7
17. Verbroederen Geel	11	0	6	5	6	21	6
18. Beveren	10	0	3	7	10	28	3

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Panathinaikos 3, Iraklis Salonica 0, Aris Salonica 1, Kavala 0, PAOK Salonica 0, Paniliakos Pyrgos 1, Xanthi 5, Panionios Athens 0, Panachaiki 2, Proodeftiki 0, Ethnikos Astir 2, Kalamata 0, Trikala 2, Ionikos Piraeus 2, AEK Athens v Olympiakos postponed. (New date: November 15).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Panathinaikos	6	5	1	0	15	3	16
2. Olympiakos Piraeus	5	5	0	0	17	1	15
3. Aris Salonica	6	4	2	0	12	4	14
4. Paniliakos Pyrgos	6	3	2	1	6	3	11
5. AEK Athens	5	3	1	1	12	9	10
6. OFI Heraklion	5	3	1	1	11	8	10
7. Xanthi	6	2	3	1	7	2	9
8. Ionikos Piraeus	6	2	3	1	6	5	9
9. Iraklis Salonica	6	3	0	3	11	11	9
10. Ethnikos Astir	6	3	0	3	7	8	9
11. PAOK Salonica	6	2	2	2	12	11	8
12. Panachaiki Patras	6	2	2	2	7	6	8
13. Kavala	6	1	1	4	3	10	4
14. Kalamata	6	0	3	3	3	12	3
15. Panionios Athens	6	1	0	5	5	21	3
16. Apollon Athens	5	0	2	3	3	6	2
17. Trikala	6	0	2	4	6	14	2
18. Proodeftiki	6	0	1	5	3	12	1

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

Alverca 3, Benfica 1, Gil Vicente 3, Santa Clara 1, Belenenses 1, Uniao Leiria 0, Braga 1, Maritimo 2, Rio Ave 1, Farense 1, Boavista 2, Salgueiros 1, Porto 3, Sporting Lisbon 0, Campomaiorense 2, Vitoria Guimaraes 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Benfica	9	6	2	1	15	5	20
2. Porto	9	5	4	0	16	5	19
3. Maritimo	9	5	2	2	14	7	17
4. Sporting Lisbon	9	4	3	2	14	10	15
5. Vitoria Guimaraes	9	4	3	2	14	10	15
6. Boavista	9	4	3	2	8	7	15
7. Belenenses	9	4	3	2	12	7	15
8. Gil Vicente	9	4	2	3	12	8	14
9. Alverca	9	4	2	3	11	12	14
10. Santa Clara	9	2	4	3	13	14	10
11. Salgueiros	9	3	1	5	8	11	10
12. Campomaiorense	9	3	1	5	9	15	10
13. Rio Ave	9	2	4	3	11	16	10
14. Estrela Amadora	8	1	5	2	7	11	8
15. Farense	9	1	4	4	6	15	7
16. Uniao Leiria	9	1	3	5	8	12	6
17. Vitoria Setubal	8	1	3	4	10	14	6
18. Braga	9	1	1	7	9	18	4

YUGOSLAVIAN FIRST DIVISION

Cukaricki Belgrade 2, Borac Cacak 0, Radnicki Kragujevac 1, Rad Belgrade 2, Spartak Subotica 2, Buducnost Podgorica 2, Sutjeska Niksic 2, Zeleznik Belgrade 1, Hajduk Belgrade 5, Milicionar Belgrade 1, Proleter Zrenjanin 1, Sartil Smederevo 1, Hajduk Kula 0, Obilic Belgrade 2, Radnicki Nis 2, Zemun Belgrade 3, Partizan Belgrade 2, Red Star Belgrade 0, Vojvodina Novi Sad v Mogren Budva postponed.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Obilic	12	10	1	1	24	9	31
2. Partizan	11	9	1	1	20	9	28
3. Red Star	11	6	4	1	25	8	22
4. Zeleznik	11	5	3	3	19	13	18
5. Sutjeska	12	5	2	5	19	21	17
6. Radnicki (K)	12	5	2	5	10	14	17
7. Rad	11	4	4	3	18	13	16
8. Vojvodina	10	5	1	4	14	9	16
9. Zemun	11	5	1	5	16	21	16
10. Buducnost	11	4	3	4	12	13	15
11. Hajduk (K)	11	4	3	4	11	11	15
12. Milicionar	12	4	3	5	14	17	15
13. Cukaricki	11	4	2	5	12	13	14
14. Hajduk (B)	11	4	1	6	22	23	13

15. Spartak	12	3	4	5	7	17	13
16. Proleter	11	3	3	5	11	12	12
17. Sartil	12	3	3	6	14	19	12
18. OFK Beograd	11	3	3	5	13	18	12
19. Radnicki (N)	12	4	0	8	15	22	12
20. Mogren	11	2	4	5	11	17	10
21. Borac	12	2	2	8	16	24	8

HUNGARIAN FIRST DIVISION

Siofok 2, Nagykanizsa 0, Haladas-Szombathely 1, Diosgyor 0, Ferencvaros 0, Tatabanya 1, Gazszer 1, Dunaferr 2, Gyor ETO 1, Vac 1, Szeged 0, Debrecen 4, Zalaegerszeg 0, MTK Budapest 0, Kispest 1, Ujpest 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dunaferr	11	7	3	1	27	10	24
2. Debrecen	11	6	3	2	17	10	21
3. Gazszer	11	6	3	2	17	14	21
4. MTK Budapest	10	5	4	1	17	8	19
5. Tatabanya	11	5	4	2	14	13	19
6. Vasas	10	6	-	4	15	10	18
7. Zalaegerszeg	11	4	4	3	15	5	16
8. Gyor ETO	11	3	5	3	14	9	14
9. Nagykanizsa	11	3	5	3	12	13	14
10. Nyirseg-Spartacus	10	4	2	4	11	15	14
11. Ujpest	10	3	4	3	16	16	13
12. Kispest-Honved	11	3	4	4	13	14	13
13. Ferencvaros	11	3	3	5	13	11	12
14. Diosgyor	11	2	4	5	10	15	10
15. Haladas-Szombathely	11	3	1	7	10	19	10
16. Szeged	11	2	3	6	8	26	9
17. Siofok	11	3	1	7	7	16	7
18. Vac	11	1	3	7	11	23	6

Note: Siofok were deducted three points and penalised three games for not appearing for a match against Nyirseg-Spartacus.

ROMANIAN FIRST DIVISION

Astra Ploiesti 2, Petrolul Ploiesti 0, Dinamo Bucharest 4, Arges Pitesti 0, CSM Resita 3, Brasov 1, Universitatea Craiova 2, Rocar Bucharest 1, Farul Constanta 1, Rapid Bucharest 1, Onesti 1, National Bucharest 0, FCM Bacau 1, Extensiv Craiova 0, Ceahlautu Piatra Neamt 1, Gloria Bistrita 0, Steaua Bucharest 2, Otelul Galati 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dinamo Bucharest	14	12	2	0	42	9	38
2. Rapid Bucharest	14	9	3	2	22	13	30
3. Ceahlautu Piatra Neamt	14	8	3	3	20	18	27
4. Arges Pitesti	14	8	2	4	17	12	26
5. Steaua Bucharest	14	8	1	5	28	21	25
6. Astra Ploiesti	14	8	1	5	21	16	25
7. Gloria Bistrita	15	7	1	7	22	22	22
8. FCM Bacau	14	6	4	4	17	17	22
9. Otelul Galati	15	6	2	7	25	23	20
10. Onesti	15	6	2	7	20	26	20
11. Rocar Bucharest	15	6	0	9	21	24	18
12. Petrolul Ploiesti	15	5	3	7	16	24	18
13. Brasov	15	5	1	9	23	24	16
14. Farul Constanta	15	4	4	7	18	19	16
15. Universitatea Craiova	15	4	3	8	17	19	15
16. National Bucharest	14	4	2	8	18	21	14
17. CSM Resita	15	2	5	8	15	35	11
18. Extensiv Craiova	15	3	1	11	10	29	10

UKRAINIAN FIRST DIVISION

Metalurg Zaporizhya 1, Metalurg Donetsk 1, Metalurg Mariupol 3, Metalist Kharkiv 1, Dynamo Kiev 4, Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk 0, Kryvbas Kryviy Rih v Tavria Simferopol, Nyva Ternopil v CSKA Kiev, Vorskla Poltava v Zirka Kirovohrad, Prykarpattya I-Frankivsk v Karpaty Lviv. Playing Tuesday: Shakhtar Donetsk v Chernomorets Odesa

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dynamo Kiev	11	10	1	0	26	6	31
2. Kryvbas Kryviy Rih	12	8	3	1	23	11	27
3. Vorskla Poltava	13	7	2	4	27	17	23
4. Shakhtar Donetsk	12	7	1	4	17	6	22
5. Metalurg Zaporizhya	13	6	4	3	18	13	22
6. Karpaty Lviv	13	7	0	6	23	17	21
7. Metalurg Donetsk	14	5	5	4	18	15	20
8. Metalist Kharkiv	13	6	2	5	15	16	20
9. Metalurg Mariupol	14	6	1	7	25	21	19
10. CSKA Kiev	13	4	5	4	15	11	17
11. Tavria Simferopol	13	4	4	5	18	19	16
12. Dnipro	14	3	4	7	12	29	13
13. Chornomorets Odesa	13	3	2	8	7	26	11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Total

Home

Away

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
BRISBANE STRIKERS	5	4	1	0	9	4	13	3	2	1	0	7	4	2	2	0	0	2	0
CARLTON	5	3	2	0	10	2	11	2	1	1	0	3	2	3	2	1	0	7	0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	5	3	2	0	9	3	11	2	0	2	0	3	3	3	3	0	0	6	0
PERTH GLORY	5	2	3	0	8	4	9	2	0	2	0	3	3	3	2	1	0	5	1
MARCONI STALLIONS	5	2	2	1	8	9	8	2	1	0	1	2	4	3	1	2	0	6	5
CANBERRA COSMOS	5	2	1	2	7	5	7	4	1	1	2	4	3	1	1	0	0	3	2
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	5	1	3	1	7	6	6	2	0	2	0	3	3	3	1	1	1	4	3
SOUTH MELBOURNE	5	2	0	3	6	5	6	2	2	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	3	1	5
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	5	1	3	1	8	11	6	2	1	0	1	2	5	3	0	3	0	6	6
AUCKLAND KINGZ	5	1	2	2	6	9	5	3	1	1	1	4	6	2	0	1	1	2	3
ADELAIDE FORCE	5	1	2	2	3	6	5	2	1	1	0	2	1	3	0	1	2	1	5
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	5	1	2	2	3	6	5	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	4
PARRAMATTA POWER	5	1	1	3	7	10	4	3	1	1	1	5	5	2	0	0	2	2	5
NORTHERN SPIRIT	5	1	1	3	4	7	4	2	0	0	2	0	3	3	1	1	1	4	4
SYDNEY UNITED	5	1	1	3	4	7	4	3	1	0	2	3	5	2	0	1	1	1	2
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	5	1	0	4	3	8	3	3	1	0	2	1	4	2	0	0	2	2	4

Northern Spirit

0

Sydney Olympic

1

(M Rudan 17og)

Venue: North Sydney Oval. **Crowd:** 16,134. **Referee:** M Shields
Cautions: Rudan (NS) 2, Emerton (SO) 9, Mendez (SO) 36, Phillips (SO) 62, Wilson (SO) 86, Bilokapic (NS) 87, Kalantzis (SO) 89.
Teams: Northern Spirit: Perosh, Rudan, Arnold, Bingley (Saad 72), Casserly, S.Cranney (Cunico 68), Enes, T. Cranney, Langdon, Perinich (Bilokapic 46), Seal.
Sydney Olympic: Bouhoutsos, Baillie, Juric, Tsekenis, Emerton, Thomas, Phillips, Mendez (Zorbas 62), Wilson, Arambasic (Kalantzis 53), Cardozo.

Adelaide Force

0

Carlton SC

0

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium **Crowd:** 4,991 **Referee:** C. Diomis
Cautions: Day (AF) 14, Vidmar (AF) 60, Packer (CSC) 81, Ki Kim (AF) 90.
Teams: Adelaide Force: Knezevic, Zelic, Tobin (Fusco 38), (Dongi Di-Kim for Fusco 72); Mori, Veart, Vidmar, Day, Cartwright, Kemp, Costanzo, Hassell.
Carlton SC: Anastasiadis, McPherson, Deans, Douglas, Marth, Moriera (Markovski 68), Lapsansky, Conroy (Thompson 80), Terminello, Tricarico (Atkinson 15), Packer.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

C Boutsianis	(Perth Glory)	4
P Foster	(Brisbane Strikers)	4
A Marth	(Carlton SC)	4
M Curcija	(Sth Melbourne)	4
D Watkins	(Canberra Cosmos)	4
Z Babic	(Marconi Stallions)	3
P Cardozo	(Sydney Olympic)	3
P Bennett	(Parramatta Power)	2
J Buonavoglia	(Newcastle Breakers)	2
B Despotovski	(Perth Glory)	2
F De Jong	(Auckland Kingz)	2
P Dwyer	(Brisbane Strikers)	2
C Gibson	(Marconi Stallions)	2
J Griffiths	(Parramatta Power)	2
M Jerman	(Sydney United)	2
E Masi	(Wollongong Wolves)	2
A Moreira	(Carlton SC)	2
D Mori	(Adelaide Force)	2
M. Sterjovski	(Parramatta Power)	2

Canberra Cosmos

1

(T Popovich 56)

Perth Glory

1

(C Boutsianis 62)

Venue: Bruce Stadium **Crowd:** 3760 **Referee:** B. Precious
Cautions: James (CC) 22, Hamilton (CC) 50, Halpin (PG) 62, Winnie (CC) 77.
Red Card: Junior (PG) 32.
Teams: Canberra Cosmos: Barlow, Hooker, Popovich, Burt (Koipak 80), Hamilton (Prenzosi 68), Winnie, Polak, James (Arranz 51), de Jesus, Musitano, Watkins.
Perth Glory: Franken, Trajkovski, Miller, Naven, Hamwell, Junior, Halpin, Ergic, Edwards, Despotovski, Boutsianis (Carbone 89).

Auckland Kingz

3

(F De Jong 51, D Mennillo 74, L Jones 89)

Wollongong

3

(M Horsley 3, P Reid 38, E Masi 61)

Venue: North Harbour Stadium **Crowd:** 4,500 **Referee:** M Breeze
Cautions: Silva (K) 5, Ngata (K) 11, Young (W) 18, Horsley (W) 55, Harlock (W) 58, D Cervinski (W) 73, Pogliacomini (W) 74, de Jong (K) 85.
Red Card: Masi (WW) 68, Huxley (WW) 75.
Teams: Auckland Kingz: Utting, Perry, Bunce, Moya (Stergiopoulos 46), Vicelich, Jackson, Ngata, Osman (Jones 85), Mennillo, de Jong, Silva (Van Steeden 73).
Wollongong: Pogliacomini, Souros, Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Reid (Surjan 86), Huxley, Harlock, Chipperfield (Spencer 61), Masi, Young (Petrovski 71).

Brisbane Strikers

3

(P Dwyer 20, P Grierson 35, P Foster pen 81)

Parramatta Power

1

(M Sterjovski 69)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium **Crowd:** 4,121 **Referee:** E Lennie
Cautions: Dwyer (BS) 45, Bennett (PP) 20, Burns (PP) 45, Barrett (PP) 53, Sterjovski (PP) 55.
Red Card: Bennett (PP) 81.
Teams: Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Davidson, Bell, Ditton, Pilic, Foster, Dwyer, McLaren, Grierson, Harris (Baldwin 71), Meredith.
Parramatta Power: Crews, Barrett, Eagleton, Burns, Sterjovski, Griffiths, Berry (Erich 61) Blagojevic, Campbell (Townsend 74), Gibson, Bennett.

Gippsland Falcons

1

(M Gotis 26)

Newcastle Breakers

0

Venue: Falcons Stadium **Crowd:** 1,813 **Referee:** B Hugo
Cautions: Pyrcce (NB) 22, Jedjevic (GF) 38, Nilo (GF) 45, Bell (GF) 47, Harper (NB) 65, Vargas (GF) 70, Dodd (NB) 86.
Teams: Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjovic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, Vargas, Bell, Puca, Hutchinson (Hastie 75), Kakos (MacNicol 87), Marcina (Savage 46), Nilo.
Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Pyrcce, Roberts, McManus, Sprod (Tomich 53), Dodd, Wilson, Buonavoglia (Tachenski 82), Angieski (Trpceviski 82), Harper, Juchmewicz.

Melbourne Knights

1

(Trupkovic 37)

Sydney United

0

Venue: Knights Stadium **Crowd:** 3,197 **Referee:** D Dwight
Cautions: Racker (SU) 51, Savoca (SU) 82.
Teams: Melbourne Knights: John, Rajher (Magdic 54), Kovacevic (Vassallo 76), Nastevski, Trupkovic (Urlovic 79), Banini, Kiratzioglou, Vargas, Susa, Reda, Cervinski.
Sydney United: Hughes, Racker (J Moric 76), Kupresak, Bosnar, Savoca, Arrarte, A Moric (Deak 72), Pondeljok, Rastall, Bosevski, Jurilj (Zec 46).

Marconi Stallions

2

(C. Gibson 31, Trajanovski 89)

South Melbourne

0

Venue: Marconi Stadium **Crowd:** 4,762 **Referee:** G.Connelly.
Cautions: Kim (MS) 18, Renaud (MS) 42, Clarkson (SM) 54, Gibson (MS) 72, Curcija (SM) 78, Liparoti (SM) 88.
Teams: Marconi Stallions: Turnbull, Smith, Farah, Gibson, Renaud, Invincible, Maloney (Trajanovski 89), Kim (Care 22), McDonald, Karl (Marchesini 59), S.Babic.
South Melbourne: Udvaracz, Goutzioulis (Tsekinis 46), Orlic, Iosifidis, Blatsis, De Amicis, Magnacca, Clarkson, Panopoulos (Liparoti 87), Curcija, Anastasiadis (Coveny 64).

ROUND SIX

Friday 5 November

Newcastle Breakers	v	Marconi Stallions
Breakers Stadium	7.30pm	
Carlton SC	v	Canberra Cosmos
Olympic Park	7.30pm	
Parramatta Power	v	Gippsland Falcons
Parramatta Stadium	7.30pm	

Sunday 7 November

Sydney United	v	Adelaide Force
Sydney United Sports Centre	5pm	
Perth Glory	v	Brisbane Strikers
Perth Oval	4pm	
South Melbourne	v	Melbourne Knights
Bob Jane Stadium	6pm	
Sydney Olympic	v	Auckland Kingz
Belmore Sports Ground	6.30pm	
Wollongong Wolves	v	Northern Spirit
Brandon Park	6.30pm	